

# Applegater

Photo by Luke Ruediger • applegater.org

SPRING 2023  
Volume 16, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,000

Celebrating  
~29~  
Years

## Sentinels through the centuries: Ancient incense-cedars of the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Other than studying the ancient geology of the Applegate watershed, there's no better way to connect with the area's natural history in the here and now than getting to know the big old trees that have grown through the centuries. Many local old-growth trees have been alive in the Applegate watershed for hundreds of years and have witnessed lots of changes over that time.

The Applegate watershed is home to many stunning old trees, like the ancient sugar pines that grow in the Butte Fork canyon, dwarfing hikers along the Butte Fork Trail, and gigantic Douglas fir trees along the Middle Fork Trail that grow like a cathedral. The behemoth incense-cedar trees in the Applegate watershed that erupt from the earth with their ancient burls are some of the largest incense-cedar trees in the world.

Incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) is not a true cedar, and that is why the common name is purposefully hyphenated. The hyphen is botanical



The Studhorse Tree is quite possibly the largest incense-cedar in the world, and it grows right here in the Applegate watershed. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

shorthand indicating that the common name is misleading. True cedars, in the See **INCENSE-CEDARS**, page 15.

## Honoring the First Nations people of the Applegate Valley

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Southwest Oregon has been occupied by humans for at least 10,000 years. The original inhabitants of the Applegate River watershed were mostly the Da-ku-be-te-de people. They spoke Athapascan, as did the Galice Creek Taltushtunte, as do the Klamath River Hoopa and the coastal Tolowa people. Their neighbors, the Takelma, who lived more in the Illinois Valley, spoke a different language and referred to the Applegate River as "S'bink," meaning "Beaver Place."

Although there was some shared use of higher-elevation territory, each tribe had primary usage along certain rivers where they had camps, villages, and access to an abundance of salmon.

At the time of initial contact with white people, the Da-ku-be-te-de reportedly had three intensively occupied areas: near the confluence of the Applegate and Rogue rivers, near the mouth of the Little Applegate River, and upriver below where the Applegate Reservoir is today.

A little below the mouth of Applegate River, on the banks of the Rogue River,

was a Da-ku-be-te-de settlement referred to as Tadmelm. A village near the mouth of the Little Applegate was inhabited by a band of people, including Chief John, who was also known for his leadership of the Native people in the Rogue Indian Wars. Before the Applegate Reservoir was built, archeologists found several house pits near the dam site, indicating historical Native habitation there as well. The Da-ku-be-te-de also had seasonal villages around the Applegate Valley, one of which was in the vicinity of the original Williamsburg townsite off Williams Highway in present-day Williams.

The lives of the Native people drastically changed when the first Euro-American people came to the Applegate watershed looking for beaver. In 1827, Peter Skene Ogden and his crew were sent by the (British) Hudson Bay Company to fulfill the European demand for beaver hats and to also create a "fur desert," thereby gaining economic advantage before their

See **FIRST NATIONS**, page 2.

## Applegate collection offers a glimpse into a time when you made social media posts on postcards

BY DIANA COOGLE

"Postcards were the social media of the day," says Mary Mikkelsen, a descendant of the Applegate's pioneering Buckley family and an avid collector of historic postcards. Her collection has "too many to count," she says. "They come from all over the world, including my dad's collection from when he was overseas for World War II and my great-aunt Kate's collection from when she was overseas in World War I as a nurse."

A good example of the use of this social medium is the exchange of postcards between Mary's great-uncle George Buckley and his best friend, Ed Kubli, who lived downriver from George, close to the Applegate Bridge store.

"Uncle George spent the winter above French Gulch, breaking and training horses," Mary says. "Ed would send him a postcard, and he would send a postcard

back. Some had pictures of interesting things—horses, or whatever. Sometimes Ed or George wouldn't say anything on a postcard. Sometimes they just numbered them. Ed would write 'Number 8' on his, and George would respond with 'Number 8.'"

These days we send emojis.

A whole series of these postcards between George and Ed was about Ed's missing horses. The postcards reveal that the horses went up Thompson Creek, then got over the divide to Elliot Creek. Finally, George sends a postcard to Ed saying, "Yay! I found your horses."

A popular practice was to send colorized photos, like the one of the Permanent Exhibit Building in Medford (maybe the old Medford train depot, where Porter's is now). Some, like the sailboat postcard, were made of leather and are especially



A postcard (above) from Mary Mikkelsen's collection shows the Beekman Bank, the oldest bank in Oregon. This postcard (at right) from Mary Mikkelsen's collection is made of leather.



beautiful. One of these was sent to Mary's great-aunt Rose from a friend in Alaska. It shows an owl on a branch with the words, "Get wise. Come to Nome, Alaska."

Another popular practice was to take photographs on family vacations and have them made into postcards. Some in Mary's collection picture a family at Oregon Caves or coming up the Smith River. She has lots of postcards from Crater Lake.

Among Mary's treasures is a postcard of the Beekman Bank, the oldest bank in Oregon. It was addressed to J. G. Crotchet in Weed, California, but never mailed.

One of her gems is a series of colorized, fold-out postcards, with 18 pictures on

each side, that have never been sent. "They are really beautiful," she says, mentioning especially one of Table Rock with a huge bull elk in front of it.

If you know how to interpret them, historic postcards can say a lot, such as the one of George and Ed in their twenties on horseback. "They've been breaking horses," Mary says. "They're dressed for it. That photo

See **POSTCARDS**, page 14.

Local Postal Customer

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #125  
Medford OR

ECRWSEDDM

HISTORY - HERITAGE

# Meet our new fire chief

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Early in January I sat down with our new-but-possibly-temporary Fire Chief Chris Wolfard to talk about the future for our Applegate Valley Fire District #9. I was a bit nervous, because I'd never really taken the time to know Chris all these years. I always communicated with the past fire chiefs directly if I had a question or was planning my next article for the *Applegater*. I respected that other district employees had plenty of work to do in between responding to calls, and no one ever knew when the next emergency call might tone!

I was nervous because Chris had been the Applegate Valley Fire District #9's (AVFD #9) operations chief for as long a time as I had lived here in the Applegate Valley. And as such Chris had worked under both past fire chiefs—Brett Fillis and Mike McLaughlin. At that time, I'd not communicated with Chris much. I initially found him unapproachable, but I soon found that I'd been wrong.

Chris's background is nothing but impressive! He graduated with a fire science degree from Rogue Community College in 2000, just about the time his wife, Serena, gave birth to their only child, Ashley.

So, Chris began looking throughout the fire districts in southern Oregon towns for possible open positions. Chris quickly was hired as a full-time shift officer with the (local) Phoenix fire department. Shortly after he'd settled in, he started taking more classes and eventually graduated with a bachelor of science degree in fire service administration in 2016.

In 2003 Chris began working as the Applegate Valley Fire District #9's operations chief for Chief Brett Fillis (and later for Chief McLaughlin). So over the past 20 years Chris has been a fire officer and an EMT- intermediate (Emergency Medical Technician) for the AVFD#9, with many of us having seen him caring for our family members. Chris has also been an active member of the National Interagency Type 2 Incident Management Teams (IMT).

Nowadays, Chris is certified as a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire



Fire Chief Chris Wolfard in his office.

Officer II, an NFPA Instructor II, an Oregon EMT-Intermediate, a Haz-Mat On-Scene Incident Commander, a Type II Planning Section Chief, and a Rope, Water and Vehicle Rescue Technician. (Whew! Hope I didn't forget one!)

But wait—there's more! Chris says he is on track to complete his NFPA Fire Officer III certification in this next month! After that he will take on the NFPA Fire Officer IV. (Is your head reeling with all of those acronyms?!)

And yes, there is still one more detail: Chris also took on grant writing 22 years ago, and he is proud to be able to say today that he has brought in more than \$2 million dollars to the Rogue Valley! All of this funding was earmarked for fire equipment, training, apparatus, staffing, and a comprehensive health and wellness program for fire districts in the Rogue Valley.

In closing, I personally hope that whoever is currently studying and/or making the decisions regarding our fire chief position for the future has read this piece. They might have learned why Chris Wolfard should remain our fire chief!

Sandy Shaffer  
sassyoneor@gmail.com

# Your community needs you

BY CHRIS WOLFARD

The past few months have been an exciting time for the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD). We've added over a dozen new members to our roster of responders. This is the largest influx of new personnel we have seen in many years. Out of those who graduated in December from the Rogue Community College Firefighter 1 Academy, we recruited three firefighters. In the current Firefighter 1 Academy, which is being hosted here at AVFD, we have nine more new recruits who are on track to graduate March 3. Also joining our team is an emergency room (ER) doctor who is lined up to respond with us to 911 calls. Lastly, we've been fortunate enough to have three previous members return to our team to continue and/or restart their volunteer careers here in the Applegate.

Our member roster is currently 43 strong, including 36 volunteers and seven full-time personnel. Whether you want to fight fire, respond to EMS (emergency medical services) calls, or drive and operate a water truck, we offer a full range of volunteer opportunities. We're sure to have a spot for just about anyone willing and able to serve this community. You do not need any prior experience in emergency services to join our team. You will receive the training you need when you join our

district. We also provide all the uniforms, personal protective equipment, and tools for the job.

Obviously, most people join our organization so they can help their fellow citizens in times of need. One of the greatest feelings in the world is giving back to your community and knowing that you've made a real difference. Volunteer responders also enjoy a sense of accomplishment, achievement, and pride while learning new skills and making new friends.

As we enter spring, we will be offering basic wildland firefighter training to prepare new recruits for the upcoming fire season. We are looking for help at all seven of our stations. If you're at all interested, *now* is the time to sign up and join our family of active firefighters who are dedicated to the safety of the Applegate community! It all starts with you simply calling 541-899-1050 for an application, filling it out, and turning it in.

If you have an interest in joining our team, but have questions first, feel free to call or stop by District 9 Headquarters at 1095 Upper Applegate Road.

I look forward to meeting and talking with you.

Chris Wolfard  
Interim Fire Chief  
cwolfard@applegatefd.com

# Applegate Valley Fire District has three board seats open

BY DANIEL PELISSIER

There are three seats on the board of directors of the Applegate Valley Fire District up for election on May 16. All three are for four-year terms.

The filing period ends at 5 pm March 16. Because the fire district spans two counties, candidates must file with each county. The form may be found on the Jackson County Elections website. The cost is \$10 to file.

We all tend to take the work of special district boards for granted, but they cannot work without the citizens of the district stepping up and taking part.

Please see the Jackson County website at [jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Elections/Elections-Office](http://jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Elections/Elections-Office) for more information.

Daniel Pelissier  
pelissierdr@gmail.com

## ■ FIRST NATIONS

*Continued from page 1*

competitors (the newly established "Americans") could beat them to it.

Next came the southern Oregon gold rush. By the early 1850s, placer mining had commenced along the Applegate River, Sterling Creek, Forest Creek, Murphy Creek, Slate Creek, and, later, Williams Creek. The Applegate Trail brought in white entrepreneurs from the east looking to capitalize on gold and promising agricultural pursuits. To increase settlement in the Oregon Territory, the federal government initiated the 1850 Donation Land Claim Act, which offered "free" land (to men only), in exchange for a commitment to cultivate the land for four consecutive years. Then came the Homestead Act of 1862, which provided further incentive for the flood of Euro-Americans to lay claim on the land of the Da-ku-be-te-de.

As the conflict over land use and territory increased between the new white settlers and the Native people, the Rogue River Wars intensified and raged from 1852-1856. Captain Robert Williams, for whom Williams is named, led battles in the name of the United States against the Native people they sought to displace. Camp Spencer was established near the

mouth of Williams Creek from which Oregon Mounties launched their attacks. When the war was over, the Da-ku-be-te-de, who had survived the war, disease, and forced removal from their homelands, were moved far away to the Grand Ronde and Siletz Reservations.

In their absence, much has been lost: their language, land-based knowledge, traditions, and culture. Their descendants are today members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Grand Ronde. As current stewards of the lands, let us take time to acknowledge the people who preceded us and to welcome them home when they return.

Evelyn Roether  
evelynkr@gmail.com

*Resources:* (1) *LaLande, J.* First Over the Siskiyou: Peter Skene Ogden's 1826-1827 Journey through the Oregon-California Borderlands. *Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, 1987.* (2) *McKinley, G. and D. Frank.* Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Illinois Valleys. *Medford, Oregon, 1996.* (3) *Pullen, R.* Overview of the Environment of Native Inhabitants of Southwestern Oregon, Late Prehistoric Era. *Bandon, Oregon, 1996.* (4) *Williams Creek Watershed Council.* Williams Creek Watershed Assessment. *Williams, Oregon, 2000.*

JUST PUBLISHED!

Back in Time  
Growing up in the Applegate



by  
Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre

Editors  
Laura Ahearn, President, McKee Bridge Historical Society  
Diana Coogler, Chair, Applegater Board of Directors

\$20

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

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



Judy Zwan and Joyce Finch of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers show off some of their handiwork.

## 41st annual Quilt Show coming up in May in Grants Pass

BY BRENDA FERRARIO

The Rogue Valley Piecemakers, including members from the Applegate Valley, will hold their 41<sup>st</sup> annual Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. The pavilion will be full of beautiful quilts on display. We will have lots of surprises and special displays, as this year's theme is "Every Quilt Tells a Story!"

The show will feature beautiful bed, lap, and children's quilts, innovative art quilts, other fabric-related items, and quilts made by guild members celebrating the theme. Knowledgeable guild members will be on hand both days to answer questions about quilts and quilting and to demonstrate various techniques.

The Piecemakers' Heartworks Boutique will sell gently used sewing supplies, quilts, and gifts handcrafted by guild members. A silent auction will include quilts, wall hangings, and other items. Vendors from Oregon and California will sell fabrics, patterns, and the latest notions and machines for quilters.

Attendees could win door prizes (given away hourly on both days) or raffle items of themed baskets and prizes. They can also purchase tickets for a chance to win the Piecemakers' 2023 Opportunity Quilt, "Aurora." Proceeds from the Opportunity Quilt will benefit the Women's Crisis Center and Wildlife Images. The lucky winners of the Opportunity Quilt raffle and silent auction raffle will be announced prior to the close of the show on Saturday afternoon.

Quilt Show hours are 10 am to 4 pm both days at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, on Route 199 in Grants Pass. Admission is \$5 per day; children under 12 are admitted free. There is ample free parking.

The purpose of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers is to contribute to the growth



Cathy Penland of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers with some handcrafted handiwork.

and knowledge of quilting through friendship, inspiration, education, and community outreach. Our meetings provide a time to enjoy fellowship, learn more about quilting techniques, and share experiences about the art of making quilts. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in quilting. Our activities include Sit and Stitch, Show and Tell, demonstrations and workshops, classes taught by professional teachers, and the Comfort Quilt program.

Visitors are welcome! Join us, along with other Applegate Valley members, on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9 am to noon at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass (at the corner of Rogue River Highway and Parkdale Drive).

For more information, please stop by one of our meetings, write Rogue Valley Piecemakers, PO Box 5652, Grants Pass, OR 97527, or visit our website at [rvpiecemakers.com](http://rvpiecemakers.com).

Brenda Ferrario  
[rvpiecemakers.com/contact-us.html](http://rvpiecemakers.com/contact-us.html)

### 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. Park in the large gravel parking lot and take a short walk to the center at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers offer free doses of Narcan (which delivers naloxone) to take home to reverse opioid overdose, along with instructions for use (allow 20 minutes), as well as free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, email [rogueharmreduction@gmail.com](mailto:rogueharmreduction@gmail.com).

Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective interested in promoting community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use and other community health concerns. Volunteers work in partnership with and are trained by the HIV Alliance. For more, go to [hivalliance.org](http://hivalliance.org).

## The Siskiyou Crest Coalition brings an exciting arts, science, and culture festival to the Applegate

BY DIANA COOGLE

Things are looking good for Celebrating the Siskiyou Crest: A Festival of Arts, Culture, and Science, coming to Pacifica Garden, in Williams on July 15-16, plus a day of guided hikes on July 14.

Just look at this lineup:

**Speakers.** We are thrilled to have David Rains Wallace as Sunday's keynote speaker. His book, *The Klamath Knot*, was the first to emphasize to the public the ecological importance, geological history, and unique beauty of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. The keynote address on Saturday is just as exciting, with Michael Kauffmann, author of *Conifer Country*, and the Applegate's own well-known advocate for the Siskiyou Crest, Luke Ruediger, sharing the podium.

**Music.** We are excited to have Alice DiMichele and Windsong as our featured musicians.

**Science.** Four panel discussions, led by known experts, will focus on the ecology of the Siskiyou Crest: (1) botany, with Kristi Mergenthaler and John Villela; (2) wildlife, with Dana Ross, Romaine Cooper, and Pepper Trail; (3) biodiversity, with John Roth and Susan Harrison; (4) ecological threats to the Crest, with Dominick DellaSala and Rich Nawa. A fifth panel will feature Joe Scott on Native American culture. A panel about recreation on the Siskiyou Crest is also being planned.

**Arts.** From the Illinois Valley to Ashland, arts organizations and writers' groups are encouraging artists, poets, and musicians to submit work that takes as its subject the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest. All arts are eligible: visual (painting, drawing, photography, etc.); textile (quilting, tapestry, etc.); and sculptural (sculpture, mosaic, ceramics, etc.) We'll accept one submission per artist.

Poets may submit up to three poems about the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest, totaling no more than 130 lines, to be read at the festival.

Music and dance submissions are also eligible. As long as the song or dance reflects the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest and is no more than five minutes long, we want those submissions. There'll be time slots for performances at the festival.

**Hikes.** Even if you have been hiking these trails for 20 years or more, you'll not want to miss the opportunity of seeing butterflies at Bigelow Lakes with Dana Ross and Linda Kappen, snorkeling for coho salmon with Rich Nawa, or finding birds with Frank Lospalluto or bees with Pepper Trail. Other hikes to rugged and beautiful places on the Siskiyou Crest, from Ashland to the Smith River, will be led by Matt Dybala, Kristi Mergenthaler, Luke Ruediger, and Suzie Savoie.

**Kids' activities.** We'll have Pacifica's usual wonderful lineup for children.

**Supporters.** From a benefactor's \$1,000 donation to supporters donating up to \$250 each, businesses and individuals in the community have rallied with tremendous financial backing, including in-kind donations from lodging to venue to wine.



Wildflowers on the trail to Alex Hole and a view of the crest.

All submissions of art, poetry, and music will be juried into the show. Hyla Lipson, director of the Grants Pass Museum of Art; Nancy Adams, nationally recognized ceramicist (see article in the Winter 2022 issue of the *Applegater*), and Kevin Peer, nationally renowned videographer, will be some of the judges. If you would like to be a juror or if you know of someone we could contact, let us know by sending an email to [siskiyoufestival@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoufestival@gmail.com).

Put the festival dates on your calendar! If you are applying for a spot in the art show or with poetry, music, or dance, note the May 1 deadline for applications. Application forms will be available online by March 1. Join our mailing list—write to [siskiyoufestival@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoufestival@gmail.com)—to keep up to date with information. Also visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/CelebratingSiskiyou](https://facebook.com/CelebratingSiskiyou).

We could use lots of help as we move forward. We're looking for food trucks that don't use plastic plates or utensils. We're looking for a tech person to set up for panelists, speakers, music, and continuous video looping. We'll need help with parking, art show setup, promotion, and Facebook postings. Let us know if you want to help in any of those ways or know of anyone who could.

If you would like to donate to the festival, go to the website of our umbrella organization, Applegate Siskiyou Alliance, at [applegatesiskiyoualliance.org](http://applegatesiskiyoualliance.org), and donate in the name of the festival.

Join us in behind-the-scenes work to make the festival a success. It doubles the fun.

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



A painting by Greeley Wells from the Siskiyou Crest region offers an example of art that could be submitted.

## POETRY CORNER

*The Tree, She Is My Friend*By Diana Coogle  
dicoog@gmail.com

If only English gave to trees a gender  
and called them “he” and “she” and gave them person-  
hood, would we feel towards them a love and tender-  
ess, make a world we wouldn’t wreck and worsen?  
Could we then see a tree as caring mother  
and think of saplings as like calves or gos-  
lings, treat all plants like us and not the “other”—  
a woods of persons, not it-trees and moss-  
things? Expunge the self-canceling neutral-  
ity of “it!” a pronoun quashing worth  
and giving strength to a ruthless brutal-  
ity: felling trees, our good friends on Earth.

By changing pronouns could we end the killing?  
Would we then see sap as blood we’re spilling?

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).

## Ticket sales close March 10 for Siskiyou FilmFest

BY ALLEE GUSTAFSON

The 21st annual Siskiyou FilmFest is excited to present the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, an online party to support the conservation work of KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper, defending the wildlands, wildlife, and waterways of the Klamath-Siskiyou region and Rogue Basin.

This year we are hosting the film festival and a raffle online as a fundraiser to support KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper while bringing the community together to celebrate the wonders of the Klamath-Siskiyou region through film and art.

We are continuing the legacy of FilmFest founder Barry Snitkin, who

in 2009 began taking films around the Rogue Valley region, including Williams, Cave Junction, and Ashland, to folks who might not be able to attend the entire festival.

Check out the film lineup and purchase film festival tickets at [siskiyoufilmfest.org](http://siskiyoufilmfest.org). Tickets are on sale through 6 pm March 10.

After you purchase your ticket, the film festival will be sent to your email inbox on March 10 at 6 pm. The film festival will be available to view for five days, until March 15.

Allee Gustafson  
[allee@kswild.org](mailto:allee@kswild.org)

## Celebrate and give gratitude at Earth Day in Williams

BY CHERYL BRUNER

Come celebrate and give gratitude at Earth Day in Williams from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday, April 22. Admission is by a \$10-20 donation (children under 12 are free).

The day will be filled with a host of activities for all ages. Come and enjoy the five bands, the drums, and Ray of Light Dance Troupe.

Browse at the environmental booths and learn from demonstrations on how we protect the earth and its inhabitants.

Partake in yummy organic food and drinks for the stomach and soul. Have

your children—with their faces painted—join the All Species Parade dressed as their favorite plant or animal.

Look for future additional information on the website at [williamscommunityforestproject.org](http://williamscommunityforestproject.org) and the Facebook page at [facebook.com/WilliamsCommunityForestProject](https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsCommunityForestProject).

We welcome all sponsors and volunteers for this exciting day. Contact [WilliamsCommunityForestProjectatinfo@williamscommunityforestproject.org](mailto:WilliamsCommunityForestProjectatinfo@williamscommunityforestproject.org).

Cheryl Bruner  
[info@williamscommunityforestproject.org](mailto:info@williamscommunityforestproject.org)[williamscommunityforestproject.org](http://williamscommunityforestproject.org)

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Marriage Portrait*Maggie O’Farrell  
Alfred A Knopf, 2022  
New York, New York

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

High school happened a long time ago, but I remember that in English class, probably my senior year, we were assigned the dramatic-monologue poem “My Last Duchess,” by Robert Browning. At 16 I had not a clue what Browning might be telling me. Later, college maybe, the picture painted by the poet began making sense. The arrogance of the Duke of Ferrara, who is the speaker in the poem, can chill a person, especially a woman, to the depths with recognition.

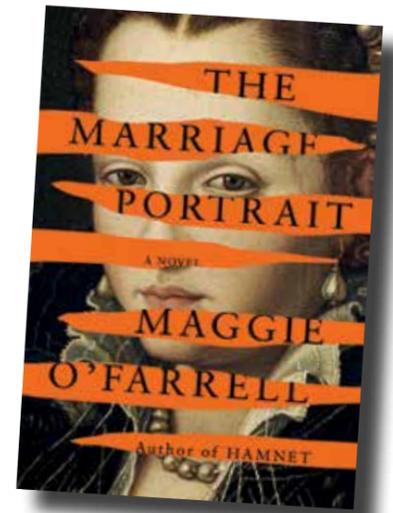
*That’s my last Duchess painted on the wall,  
Looking as if she were alive.*

In her latest novel, *The Marriage Portrait*, Maggie O’Farrell has accomplished a stunning task of artistry and storytelling. She has telescoped that same woman of poetry and history out from scant renderings of historical fact in which she was an unfavored daughter of Cosmo de Medici, his middle child, Lucrezia. In an ironic twist the Duke of Ferrara had purchased her as a bride when she was but a child. O’Farrell uses her exquisite intuition to “read” Ferrara’s wedding portrait of Lucrezia at sixteen, to ponder her disappearance soon afterwards, to examine Browning’s nineteenth-century work, in which he took some clues from those scant historic renderings and in his poem implied something shrewd, something cruel, something unimaginable, something trifling, dehumanizing, something icy cold. And now Maggie O’Farrell asks her reader, “What is the violence that lies hidden here?”

Already on the novel’s first page, with the Browning quote (“*My last Duchess... Looking as though she were alive*”) ringing in our ears, we know that when the duke was showing off Lucrezia’s picture, she was already dead and that he intends to find himself another wife. It is a tongue-in-cheek sort of violence we deal with here, and more horrible for that realization. At that very moment, because she must be dead, she comes alive for us, and the novel is on its terrifying way.

My friend Diana Coogle recommended this book to me, calling it brilliant. After I spent all of a day and a half reading it (because I couldn’t pull myself away), Diana and I stood outside the Applegate Library and praised the author.

“Were you amazed by her ability to manipulate the timeline to increase suspense?”



“I know! And not in an ordinary way.”  
“Right, not at all. She did it with potent images. Foreshadowing. Fate.”

“Like knowing it before it happened...”  
We were laughing together in mutual recognition of what is probably O’Farrell’s masterpiece.

I think I called *Hamnet*, the novel O’Farrell released two years ago, a masterpiece. Can a writer have only one of those?

I find O’Farrell’s writing style, her voice, intriguing. Her structure is chiasmic, meaning that her themes and images are layered and synchronous. They echo and call to each other from beginning to end, entwining to create multifaceted meaning. *The Marriage Portrait* is an artistic pentimento in which layer after layer of painted color creates a surface the opposite of the original below the layers. The reader senses something hidden, even trapped, beneath each stroke of the artist’s brush. The beauty of the final image covers something wild and dangerous. Right up front, page 18, O’Farrell gives us the image of a magnificent tiger caged and being brought into the Sala Dei Leoni, the Room of the Lion, in the Di Medici basement.

*And then Lucrezia...saw it: a lithe, sinuous shape, moving from one side of the cage to the other. The tigress didn’t so much pace as pour herself, as if her very essence was molten, simmering, like the ooze from a volcano. It was hard to distinguish the bars of the cage from the dark, repeating stripes on the creature’s fur. The animal was orange, burnished gold, fire made flesh; she was power and anger, she was vicious and exquisite; she carried on her body the barred marks of a prison, as if she had been branded for exactly this, as if captivity had been her destiny all along.*

Here the echoes and buried images of O’Farrell’s masterpiece begin to be heard and seen.

Christin Lore Weber  
[storyweaver1@gmail.com](mailto:storyweaver1@gmail.com)

Welcome Spring!

A poetry reading by the Applegate Poets

Refreshments ☒ Book Table

March 19, 2023, 2 to 4 pm

Applegate Library, 18485 North Applegate Road

## Authors!

Need copy editing? Want to self-publish?

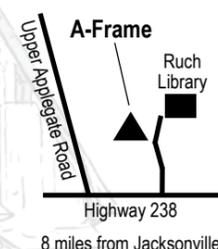
- Book design and production
- Self-publishing management
- Manuscript copy editing
- Long-time *Applegater* editor

Holiday Literary Services  
[holidayliterary@aol.com](mailto:holidayliterary@aol.com)

## Visit the A-Frame Bookstore

@ Ruch Library

Used books from \$1 to \$3

Open 1 - 3 pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, and SaturdayManaged by Friends of  
Ruch Library. Join us!

## The Book Barn

Now open the  
first Saturday of  
each monthSale by donation  
12 - 4 pmLocated next to the  
A-Frame Bookstore

~ FINE PRINT ~

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

**Our Mission**

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

**Acknowledgements**

The *Applegater* newsmagazine is published quarterly by AVCN and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Diana Coogle, Margaret Perrow della Santina, Haley May Peterson, and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Lisa Baldwin, Diana Coogle, Jeanette LeTourneux, and Paul Tipton for proofing; David Dobbs for bookkeeping; Webmaster Joe Lavine; and Barbara Holiday for layout.

**Board of Directors**

- Diana Coogle, Chair
- David Dobbs, Vice-Chair/Treasurer
- Lisa Baldwin, Secretary
- Bert Etling, Editor in Chief
- Barbara Holiday
- Margaret M Patterson
- Jennifer Petersen

**Editorial Committee**

- Bert Etling, Editor in Chief
- Diana Coogle
- Aaron Krikava
- Sandy Shaffer
- Greeley Wells

All articles, stories, opinions and letters in the *Applegater* are the property and opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or AVCN.

**Protection of Copyrighted Material**

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

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

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

**Photo Requirements**

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

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

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

Applegater Newsmagazine  
PO Box 14  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

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

**SASQUATCH**

Bob Chase, Williams, OR  
Greeley Wells, Jacksonville, OR

**COUGAR**

Lynne Anderson, Williams, OR  
Joe Duggan, Jacksonville, OR  
Tracy Lamblin, Jacksonville, OR  
Pavo Vineyard, Jacksonville, OR  
Maggie Purves Fund of Oregon Community Foundation, Ashland, OR

**BEAR**

Anonymous, Applegate, OR  
Frank Ault, Jacksonville, OR  
William & Nancy Barr, Williams, OR  
Claudia Beausoleil, Williams, OR  
Stacie Brink, Jacksonville, OR  
Judy Crowe, Grants Pass, OR  
Gail Curtis Graham, Jacksonville, OR  
Kathleen Horner, Jacksonville, OR  
Mary Ann Johnson, Jacksonville, OR

James & Peggy Olson, Grants Pass, OR  
Joan Peterson, Applegate, OR  
Charles Seagraves, Grants Pass, OR  
Three Bears Charitable Trust, Cincinnati, OH

Scott & Suellen Willi, Grants Pass, OR  
Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville, OR

**STEELHEAD**

Anonymous (2)  
Anonymous, Applegate, OR  
Anonymous, Grants Pass, OR (6)  
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR (4)  
Anonymous, Medford, OR  
Anonymous, Monte Sereno, CA  
Anonymous, Williams, OR  
Jean Aguerre, Williams, OR  
Carol & Rod Andrews, Jacksonville, OR  
David & Georgia Applegate, Williams, OR  
Steve Armitage, Ashland, OR  
Theresa Auker Becker, Applegate, OR  
Danny & Lorraine Boone, Grants Pass, OR  
Marci Brooks, Jacksonville, OR  
Cynthia Cheney, Jacksonville, OR  
Mike & Sara Christian, Jacksonville, OR  
Anne Clay, Williams, OR  
Maggie & Jim Cole, Jacksonville, OR

Kathy Conway, Jacksonville, OR  
Diana Coogle, Applegate, OR  
Robert Cook, Livermore, CA  
Randy Costello, Jacksonville, OR  
Marvin & Evelyn Crawford, Jacksonville, OR

Liza Crosse, Woodacre, CA  
Pam D'Allura, Jacksonville, OR  
Devitt Winery, Jacksonville, OR  
The Dueys, Jacksonville, OR  
Thomas Eckert, Jacksonville, OR  
Jenny Emick, Oakland, CA  
Rich Fairbanks, Jacksonville, OR  
Robert Finley, Grants Pass, OR  
David & Sandra Franklin, Jacksonville, OR

Lisa Greif, Jacksonville, OR  
Dennis Gunter, Williams, OR  
Mark Hamlin, Jacksonville, OR  
Connie Harris, Grants Pass, OR  
Sylva Hatchman, Grants Pass, OR  
Robert Hendrix, Grants Pass, OR  
Lyn Hennon & Alex Bellen, Medford, OR

John Henrich, Grants Pass, OR  
Bill Hoffman, Williams, OR  
Teresa Hopkins, Jacksonville, OR  
Helon Howard, Williams, OR  
Chris Kane & Stan Long, Grants Pass, OR

Seth & Lily Kaplan, Jacksonville, OR  
Gary Katz, Applegate, OR  
Debra Keberle, Jacksonville, OR  
James Krois, Williams, OR  
Gail Kuzma, Jacksonville, OR  
Joe Lavine, Grants Pass, OR  
Mary Lorelli, Grants Pass, OR  
Lacey Lou, Jacksonville, OR  
William Maddock, Jacksonville, OR  
Brenda Marion, Jacksonville, OR  
McKee Bridge Historical Society, Applegate, OR  
Sean McNamee & April Magel, Jacksonville, OR  
Mary Buckley Mikkelsen, Gold Hill, OR  
Richard Mikula, Jacksonville, OR  
Susan Miler & David Doi, Jacksonville, OR  
Michael Murphy, Grants Pass, OR

Philip Murphy, Grants Pass, OR  
Robert & Barbara Niedermeyer, Jacksonville, OR  
Diane Offenbacher, Jacksonville, OR  
Annette Parsons, Grants Pass, OR  
Cathy Pasut, Livermore, CA  
Paul & Alison Pazourek, Grants Pass, OR  
Jon Peterson, Jacksonville, OR  
Mark Prchal, Jacksonville, OR  
Lauri Redman, Grants Pass, OR  
George Rice and Virginia Heenan, Talent, OR  
Marsha Rideout, Jacksonville, OR  
Thomas Roberts, Jacksonville, OR  
Cathy Rodgers, Granite Bay, CA  
Marcy Rustad, Jacksonville, OR  
Yola Sanders, Ocean Park, WA  
Daniel & Janeen Sathre, Jacksonville, OR  
Suzie Savoie & Luke Ruediger, Jacksonville, OR  
Don & Lori Sayer, Applegate, OR  
Walt & Joyce Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR  
In memory of Walter E Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR  
Jeannine Schoenfeld, Salem, OR

See DONORS, page 18.

**Help us**

ensure that we have the ongoing support needed to publish the *Applegater* newsmagazine. All contributions are tax-deductible and receive recognition in print.

- Sasquatch - \$1,000+
- Cougar \$500 - \$999
- Bear \$200 - \$499
- Steelhead \$50 - \$199
- Deer \$5 - \$49

Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* and mail to PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Our nonprofit ID number is 26-2062663.

**Donors: We strive to ensure that our donor list is accurate. Please contact us if there are errors or omissions.**

**We can help you reach your market!**

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

For more information, contact:  
**Jackson County**  
Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or ron.turpen@gmail.com  
**Josephine County**  
Max Unger @ 541-373-1445 or imaxunger@gmail.com

**Next deadline: May 1**

**Cover Photo Credit**

Thanks to Luke Ruediger for the photo on the Tallowbox Trail above Star Gulch, a tributary of the Upper Applegate River.  
Have a photo for the Summer 2023 *Applegater*? Email it to barbara@applegater.org.

**Corrections**

A reference on page 11 of the winter *Applegater* to a descendant of Si and Martha Messinger living near Pacifica should have said Joyce Messinger is the great-granddaughter of Si and Martha, not the great-great-granddaughter.  
The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Bert Etling at bert@applegater.org or call 541-631-1313.

**PERSONAL MAILING LABEL**

**Living away for a while? Friends and relatives in faraway places?**

The *Applegater* can be mailed anywhere in the US. Order a personal mailing label for:

- One year: \$20 (4 issues)
- Two years: \$35 (8 issues)

**Mail us a check or pay online at applegater.org.**

**Editorial Calendar**

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

**Inside the Gater**

- The Applegate Library will be open another day.....6*
- AGA is planning a historical families celebration.....7*
- Are you over- or under-watering your plants?.....9*
- Get the backstory on Cantrall Buckley.....10*
- A living cathedral now grows at Pacifica.....11*
- Largest-ever local understory burn.....12*
- Applegate Lions have lots of tales to tell.....14*
- You can soon add Tallowbox Trail to your hiking list.....16*
- What happened to the Las Palmas food trailer?.....17*
- The Applegater adds two board members.....19*
- Woodland Charter School to add kindergarten.....21*
- Have you noticed who's reading the Applegater?.....24*

## — Ruch Library —

### Ruch Library's beloved Liz Hampton is retiring



BY DAVID HAYWOOD

A lot has happened at the Ruch Library. First and foremost, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of Ruch's beloved Liz Hampton. While I am happy to see Liz reorienting her focus toward care for herself and her loved ones, she has been a community institution whom I had the privilege of working with, and relying on, in the first months of my role as Ruch branch manager. I couldn't have asked for a more gracious, cheerful, and helpful person to introduce me to the community, and she will be sincerely missed. Thank you for everything, Liz!

On that note, we will soon hire for the position Liz left vacant, so be on the lookout for a new member of the Ruch library community in the coming weeks!

This spring, we will have three public programs at the Ruch library. Back by popular demand, our Spring programming theme will be "Read Outside," and all of our programs will align with that theme.

Arriving on or around March 7 is a Take and Make kit to encourage children (and their parents or caregivers) to read outside. The kit will include seed bomb supplies, a journal, nature poems, reading lists, and a map of Cantrall Buckley Park labeled with places to read outside that I found with great help from Janis Mohr-Tipton.

On March 25 from 1 - 3 pm, please come to the Ruch library for *Wildflowers of the Applegate & Southern Oregon*, a program by Barbara Mumblo, a retired botanist and Applegate Valley resident. At this program you will learn about the many wildflowers that will populate

our beautiful Applegate Valley and southern Oregon this spring.

Our final program, *Backyard Birding with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society*, will take place on April 15 from 1-2 pm. Join Jackson County Library System and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society to learn about birding in your own backyard. Novice and experienced birders alike are invited to learn about simple identification practices and create a pinecone bird feeder—made with birdseed and peanut butter or vegetable shortening—to attract birds to your backyard this spring.

Lastly, we are very excited to welcome Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) to our branch. Through KPL you will discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing songs, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! Kaleidoscope Play and Learn is open to everyone—young children (ages 0-5) and their families, caregivers, and parents. We do not have a firm start date yet, so if you are interested, please bear with us while we get this program up and running! No preregistration is required.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of the Ruch Library, January and February are their annual membership months. You can pick up a membership brochure at the Ruch library.

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you soon!

David Haywood (he/him/his)  
Ruch Branch Library Manager  
Jackson County Library Services  
dhaywood@jcls.org

541-494-3284 • 7919 Highway 238

## — Applegate Library —

### New hours and new open day at Applegate Library

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

As of Monday, April 10, the Applegate Library days and hours will be changed to the following:

- Closed Sundays and Mondays
- Open 10 am - 4 pm Tuesdays and Fridays (formerly 2 - 6 pm)
- Closed Wednesdays
- Noon - 7 pm Thursdays (new day/time)
- Noon - 4 pm Saturdays (formerly 10 am - 2 pm)

#### Upcoming events

Preschool Storytime: New time! Fridays 11 - 11:30 am.

**Take and Make: Read Outside Kit** (5+ years) Get outside with your family on Friday, April 14. Pick up a kit (while supplies last) with supplies for a variety of outdoor fun:

- Help our natural ecosystem with some seed bomb supplies and instructions.
- Explore and record your findings with a journal and some nature journaling prompts.
- Celebrate National Poetry Month with some nature poems.
- Experience some local parks and walking trails—we'll provide the maps!
- Plus, some reading lists to get reading outside!

**Ask the Expert: Questions to Ask Your Provider** (18+ years). Do you leave your health care provider's office without being clear about their recommendations? Do you have trouble understanding chart notes and diagnoses? Rebecca Taylor, RN, BSN, can assist with these questions and more. Learn when you should see

your doctor and how to access support for a family member with a disability or chronic illness. This will be a "drop-in time" for your questions. 1 - 3 pm Saturday, April 22.

**Backyard Birding with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society** (18+ years). Join JCLS and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society to learn about birding in your own backyard. Novice and experienced birders alike are invited to learn about simple identification practices and create a bird feeder to attract birds to your backyard this spring. The feeder will be a pinecone feeder made with bird seed and peanut butter or vegetable shortening. 4 - 5 pm Thursday, May 11.

#### Reminders

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

If you have a collection of items that you would like to share with the community by displaying it in our display case, please contact staff at the library.

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

Digital Services will still be available, but the date/time is to be determined. Please check in with us!

Christine Grubb • 541-846-7346  
Applegate Branch Library Manager  
Jackson County Library Services  
cgrubb@jcls.org  
18485 North Applegate Road

## Rogue Advocates working to keep our home livable

BY LISA BALDWIN

Public involvement is at the core of Oregon's land use planning system, and as much as any one person may be committed to staying informed and involved, it is difficult, to say the least, to keep up with all that goes on in the community.

Rogue Advocates, a nonprofit organization, can help. Rogue Advocates' mission is cultivating livable and sustainable communities in the entire Rogue Valley region, including, of course, the Applegate watershed, as the Applegate River is the largest tributary of the Rogue River. By monitoring land use proposals in Jackson and Josephine counties and maintaining a comprehensive land use tracking program, Rogue Advocates works to ensure that land use proposals at the city and county level are responsible and in tune with the goals of a more livable and sustainable community. When any land use proposal raises concerns, Rogue Advocates takes appropriate action. A first step is educating the public about the concerns and encouraging residents to engage in the land use process. When necessary, Rogue Advocates will pursue litigation to make sure city and county governments comply with Oregon's land use laws.

Some examples of proposals that would raise livability and sustainability concerns are those that have a strong likelihood to decrease farmland, forestland, or open space; to negatively impact water quality or water quantity; to harm habitat for critical species. Rogue Advocates' Land



Waters Creek, a major tributary of Slate Creek, running high after heavy rains.

Use Watchdog Program prioritizes the preservation of farmland for continued production of food and fiber.

In keeping with their goals of educating the public and encouraging residents to participate in the land use process in their own communities, in November 2022, Rogue Advocates put together and published a guide, "How to Participate in Land Use Decisions." The free guide is available for download from the Rogue Advocates website ([rogueadvocates.org](http://rogueadvocates.org)). From the home page, click the Resources tab and the guide will show on the drop-down list. It is a good, brief tutorial on how to get involved and how to navigate the ins and outs of land use regulations.

Since 2006, Rogue Advocates has been actively working to protect the public interest and ensure that planning agencies follow the law. Take a few minutes to browse around on the website; there is plenty of interesting information relevant to rural residents and an invitation to get involved. Check out their board of directors and you will find neighbors and friends, all working for the continued health and benefit of our beloved valley.

Lisa E Baldwin  
lisa@applegater.org

## A unique barn is bursting with books

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We are not farmers, but our barn is bursting with gently used books that can raise awareness, nourish the soul, and feed the brain. Here we can sow seeds of curiosity and wonder and then reap unlimited knowledge of our world and beyond.

We are the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL), and we invite you to our Book Barn, open the first Saturday of each month, where book sales are by donation. This tradition of First Saturday sales began in 2018, became sporadic during the pandemic, and returned to the newly refurbished barn in March of 2022. You may not have noticed the Book Barn, situated adjacent to the Ruch Library and the charming A-Frame Bookstore. It is quiet and unassuming, but it springs to life one afternoon each month as people come to pore over the vast array of books on almost every subject and genre, appealing to all age levels and interests. The barn is lined with bookshelves and tables that display over 6,000 well-organized books, assuring something for everyone.

Each month FORL features one special category, which is currently "Award-winning Authors." Special sections throughout the Book Barn include Christian fiction, westerns, large print, science fiction, fantasy, and poetry, to name a few. About half of the books are non-fiction, the most popular of which are biographies, history, cooking, gardening, crafts, and art. We have a section of over 500 books just for children, juniors, and young adults, and over 150 CDs.

Donations are always appreciated! Clean, unmarked, gently used books and DVD donations are accepted when you shop. Books can also be donated at the



Patrons peruse the Book Barn adjacent to Ruch Library. Photo: Barbara Krack.

library (10 am - 5 pm Tuesday, 1 - 7 pm Thursday, 11 am - 4 pm Saturday), or the A-Frame Bookstore during its open hours of 1 - 3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We do not accept materials that are soiled, stained, moldy, or frayed. (Please do not leave your donations on the A-Frame Bookstore deck. Too many books are damaged by rain.) We also cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines, outdated computer or travel books, tax or finance books older than five years, religious tracts, or VHS tapes.

We want to invite the Applegate Valley community to visit and shop at the Book Barn during the first Saturday of the month from noon - 4 pm, October through June, and 11 am - 2 pm July, August, and September. The A-Frame Bookstore is open the days the library is open, between the hours of 1 - 3 pm. Both resources are treasures of the Applegate that no one should miss! No other used bookstores can be found between Medford and Grants Pass (except the Christian Store in Jacksonville). Our community is grateful for this service and the Friends of Ruch Library that operates these gems. We hope to see you soon!

Thalia Truesdell  
thaliatruessedell@gmail.com

## NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

## A hike into history

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) has received an Innovation Grant from A Greater Applegate (AGA) to research, and create new multimedia interpretive resources about, historical trails in the Applegate watershed. This project will implement 21 Strategies and Ideas for Action in the AGA Applegate Vision Plan. It was motivated by the numerous visions of Applegate residents to see our heritage, and in particular our historical trails, preserved and shared, ideally in some form of museum. MBHS has already developed a virtual museum on [mckeebridge.org](http://mckeebridge.org).



The Middle Fork trail crew, circa 1909. Seated from left are David Dorn (1878-1956), "Frenchie," Bill Fruit (1872-1951), and Ernest Dorn (1893-1982). Standing, from left: Ervin Lewis (1887-1952) and Floyd McKee (1891-1975). Postcard from Evelyn Byrne Williams collection.

MBHS members include diligent researchers, talented photographers, and some true experts on hiking in the Applegate. Building on this foundation, the historical trails project will draw on the expertise of other groups such as the Applegate Trails Association, the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association, and former Forest Service employees who spent decades identifying and protecting the cultural resources of the area.

The project offers something for everyone, whether outdoors enthusiast, armchair reader, or commuter to and from Medford or Grants Pass. For example, did you know that when you're driving on Highway 238, in many stretches you are following an 1850s pack trail? Imagine the train of mules bringing goods from Crescent City to the first prospectors' store in a tent on the Applegate River, somewhere near today's Hamilton Road. Ambushes and skirmishes during the Rogue Indian Wars. Runaway-buggy accidents, gunfights, stagecoach stops. We'll tell you where these things happened and who was involved.

How about a trail that you can still hike? The Sterling Mine Ditch Trail is popular. Brochures and websites tell a bit about its history, but not about the guy actually responsible for running the ditch. Meet ditch tender Antone Rose from Portugal. He fell into the ditch in early January 1880 and nearly froze to death. When the ditch was completed, the miners rejoiced that they would now be able to work practically year-round. Well, it didn't turn out that way—not when there was so much snow that slides clogged the ditch. After a lot of work, the slides were cleared, and the mine could resume operations...except there was still too much snow and frozen water. The ditch wouldn't run! The miners stood idle, waiting for sunny days when, perhaps by noon, the sun would melt a trickle of water to support a couple of hours of work, "making the dirt fly" with the "giant," the hydraulic nozzle.



Antone Rose (1849-1922), ditch tender for the Sterling Mine. Photo: Peter Britt portrait (1891) from SOU Hannon Library digital archives.

The historical trails project will tell stories, present fun facts, fact-check existing materials, and bust myths. You'll see vintage photos from the initial construction of trails like Middle Fork, rare maps, and 100-year-old reports. No matter how many times you've hiked a trail like Cook and Green, the project will present new features to look for, tales to recount, and pioneers to remember.

If you would like to help research historical trails in the Applegate and plan reconnaissance hikes later this spring, please contact MBHS at [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com).

Laura Ahearn  
[mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)  
Note: MBHS has a "Southern Oregon Experience" clip about the hamlet of Watkins, aka Applegate Lake, now airing on SOPBS. You can stream it at [sopbs.org/programs/southern-oregon-experience](http://sopbs.org/programs/southern-oregon-experience).



## EL ARRIERO

MEXICAN FAMILY  
RESTAURANT

2366 WEST MAIN ST.  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
(541) 245-5872

235 BARNETT ROAD  
MEDFORD, OR 97504  
(541) 245-6778



The Lee and Helen Black family: The babe in arms, John Black, became a leading local historian in team with his wife, Marguerite, (authors of Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley, 1989), and their daughter Annice continues that tradition. Photo: Courtesy of McKee Bridge Historical Society.

## AGA working groups celebrate local history and so much more

BY SETH KAPLAN

The *Applegate Valley Vision*, with its five focus areas, 25 goals, 90 strategies, and more than 500 ideas for action, continues to bear fruit! With support from A Greater Applegate, dozens of Applegate Valley residents and organizations supporting the community have organized to form nine working groups as of this writing, with more forming every month.

Current working groups include Artists, Climate, Destination Applegate, Education, Food and Farm, Forest and Fire, History, Outdoor Recreation, and Village Hubs/Innovative Economy. (Go to [agreaterapplegate.org/working-groups](http://agreaterapplegate.org/working-groups) to learn more.)

The History Working Group is particularly pertinent to this issue of the *Applegater*. The Applegate Valley History Working Group formed to conserve the cultural heritage and recognize the local history of the Applegate Valley. Members represent local historical societies and libraries and include educators and descendants of early settlers to this area. The History Working Group has several projects already in the works.

Using an AGA Innovation Grant, working group member McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS, [mckeebridge.org](http://mckeebridge.org)) is identifying historical trails in the area. MBHS will be spotlighting these trails in print and on their website with interesting and significant stories, highlighting our colorful history for residents and visitors alike. (See complete story on this page.)

Using "rural placemaking funds" (a federal grant program for rural communities) given to it by AGA as starting points, the History Working Group has identified two other projects to take on in 2023. One is the publication of *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valley*, by George McKinley and Doug Frank. A project of the *Applegater* Newsmagazine, *Stories on the Land* is a reprinting of this historically significant book, originally prepared in 1995 for the Bureau of Land Management. The book focuses on human interactions on the land that have affected

the environmental history of our area.

The second project is an Applegate Valley Historical Families event. Many Applegate families can trace their local history back to the early 1900s and some even as early as the 1850s, although the number of these families with connections to the area is shrinking over time. The History Working Group wants to celebrate the remaining families through a community gathering at a time and place to be determined.

Planning is still in the early stages, and your ideas and volunteer support are welcome. Key to the event is to recognize the long-time families and give us all an opportunity to hear the stories, see the early photos, and gain a better understanding of what the Applegate was like back in the day. Expect some informative and entertaining stories, good old-timey music, food, demonstrations, and a fun and educational day for the whole family.

If you are a descendent of an old-time local family, or if you just want to help, reach out to us at [info@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:info@agreaterapplegate.org) and we will get you connected. All are welcome to participate and attend.

Over time, the History Working Group will take on the four strategies in the Vision to conserve the cultural heritage and recognize the local history of the Applegate Valley. These include:

- Preserve the historic infrastructure in the Applegate Valley
- Develop an Applegate Valley History Museum
- Collect and curate local history through events and activities
- Develop collaboration between stakeholders

To learn more about the local history section of the Applegate Valley Vision, go to [ggle.io/5Xqc](http://ggle.io/5Xqc).

If you are interested in joining this or any of the working groups, contact Megan Fehrman ([megan@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:megan@agreaterapplegate.org) or 541-702-2108).

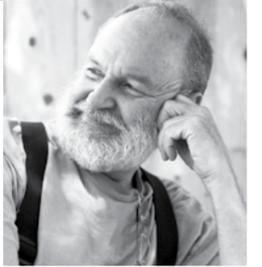
Seth Kaplan, Co-Executive Director  
A Greater Applegate  
[seth@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:seth@agreaterapplegate.org)

Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the *Applegater*. Email [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

# THE STARRY SIDE

## Hope to see *all* the stars

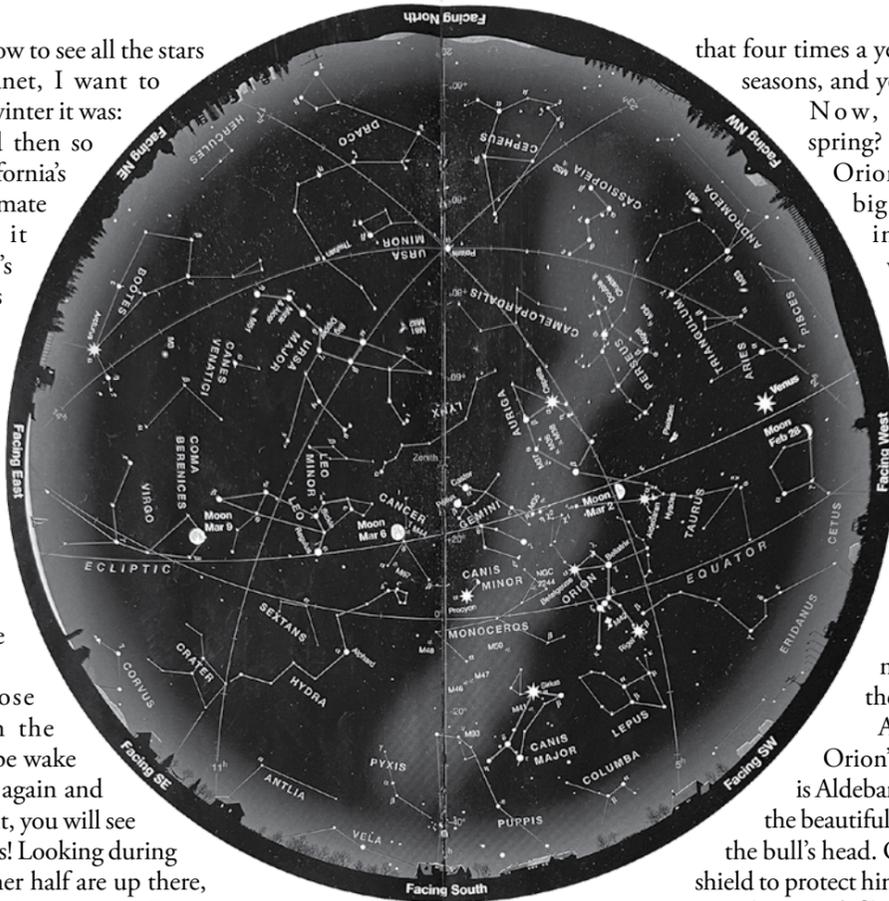
BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Before I tell you how to see all the stars visible from our planet, I want to comment on what a winter it was: so cold early on and then so wet! I'm sorry for California's hard time and the climate change that made it happen, but maybe it's an opportunity for us to take a moment to look at our lives and what we can actually do to help the climate change problem. One person can't literally make a difference, but it does feel right to try, and if most of us did, it *would* make a big difference.

Now, about those stars. If you watch the sky all night, or maybe wake up to look at the sky again and again during one night, you will see only half of all the stars! Looking during the day, when the other half are up there, won't do you any good, of course. Every 24 hours the same constellations reappear to us but move slightly towards the west as the earth rotates, about one degree each night. (This means that each night, the constellations rise about four minutes earlier than the night before.) So only half the starry sky—any given 180 degrees—is viewable in one whole night.



Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

In order to complete your experience and see the other half of our stars, you'd have to stay up all night in fall, the opposite season! For a far better solution, pick one night in the fall and look early in the evening and then again late that night; you'll see a quarter of the stars. Then do

that four times a year, in each of our four seasons, and you'll see them all.

Now, what's up this spring? Each time I mention Orion it's because he's so big and obvious, rising in winter and going west in spring. The brightest star in the sky, Sirius, is Orion's dog star, following him. Sirius is to the left of Orion's three-in-a-row belt. Orion and Sirius will both be a little right of due south when you get this issue of the Gater and will be sinking into the northwest by the end of the season.

Almost in line with Orion's belt and to his right is Aldebaran, the brightest star in the beautiful little V shape of Taurus the bull's head. Orion is holding up his shield to protect himself. He raises his right arm (on our left), holding his sword to fight the bull. And for a while now, nearby and overhead is the very bright and red Mars, heading west. Farther on, about the same distance again, is Capella in Auriga, that five-sided shape with a gorgeous little triangle on the northwest edge.

These are some of my favorite constellations and stars, making a beautiful

sweep from the lower southwest, rising around west to the northwest and closer to the zenith (top of the sky). Squint your eyes, and enjoy the arc of bright stars that will show up!

Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

### — OF NOTE —

**Mercury** is in the dawn during February. He's unseen in March, but April will find him in the afternoon dusk in the west just after the sun sets.

**Venus** stands strong in the dusk for February and then further west in March. She's near the sunset, bright, and might be the first star (planet) you can see after sunset.

**Mars** is an evening star high up in the sky, very gradually getting dimmer and dimmer as he travels away from us in his path around the sun. Look for *red!*

**Jupiter** is an evening star in February and March; he'll be moving westward at dusk and will set by April. He's always very bright. He'll be competing with Venus, who's just a little brighter.

**Saturn** is not visible in February, but will be visible in the dawn in March, and after midnight (early morning) in April.

**Sorry, no good meteor showers this spring.**

## Got News?

The *Applegater* welcomes submissions!

We're your newspaper and want to share your news with readers throughout the Applegate Valley watershed's many neighborhoods. What's going on around you? Let us know! Send your write-up and photos to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

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

**CECE SHOOP HOUSE KEEPING**

**CT Shoop Incorporated**

P.O. BOX 5557  
Central Point, OR 97502  
(541) 930-2437  
[ctshoop15@gmail.com](mailto:ctshoop15@gmail.com)

**BOB THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

FOREIGN / DOMESTIC SERVICE AND REPAIR

"We care about your repair."

Brian Thomas, Owner  
535 Rossanley Drive  
Medford, OR 97501

Mail Tribune Readers' Choice

541-734-3743  
Fax 541-245-3784

[www.BobThomasAutomotive.com](http://www.BobThomasAutomotive.com)

**Bradley Realty**

Broker

**Julia McCue**

Cell: 541.291.6624  
Office: 541.582.0111  
114 E. Main St. P.O. Box 1887  
Rogue River, OR 97537  
Email: [jmccurealtor@gmail.com](mailto:jmccurealtor@gmail.com)  
[www.bradleyrealty.biz](http://www.bradleyrealty.biz)

**Jeanne Schattler**

(541) 621-2480  
Principal Broker, PSA, GRI  
Windermere Van Vleet Jacksonville  
505 N 5th St, Jacksonville, OR 97530  
[jvillejeanne@gmail.com](mailto:jvillejeanne@gmail.com)  
[www.Jeanne4Land.com](http://www.Jeanne4Land.com)  
Specializing in Farms & Ranches / Eco-Friendly Lifestyle

*Klamath-Siskiyou*

**NATIVE SEEDS**

grow native | grow wild

Based in the Applegate

[klamathsiskiyouseeds.com](http://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com)

**Natural Products Used**

**The Cleaning Crew, LLC**

Professional Cleaning Services

Homes • Offices • Rentals  
Windows, Gutters  
Pressure Washing

**541-601-6236**

Licensed Bonded Insured

[TheCleaningCrewOnline.com](http://TheCleaningCrewOnline.com)

**MONTAGE ORIENTAL MEDICINE**

Grants Pass

MontageOM.com

541 708 3953

**BLACK SWAN**

Creative Writing

transform trauma into a new narrative

GABRIELLE.PULLEN@GMAIL.COM  
541 777-0124  
[www.theresiliencezone.com](http://www.theresiliencezone.com)

235 W. MAIN ST.  
JACKSONVILLE, OR

**Grants Pass Water Lab**

Eric Schaafsma  
Technical Director  
[eric@gpwaterlab.com](mailto:eric@gpwaterlab.com)

541-476-0733  
Fax 541-476-8132

964 SE "M" Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# Droop to droop

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

If your garden plant is drooping, wilting, or fainting—whatever you call it—it isn't necessarily thirsty for a glass of beer. You may be, but not necessarily your plants. Plants often can be likened to humans. Say you drank too much beer. You might droop, wilt, or faint. On the other hand, you may droop, wilt, or faint if you are very thirsty or dehydrated. At first glance, both too much *and* too little appear very similar. Perhaps you are just napping or hiding from the heat. I am referring to you or your plants. So while drooping is drooping like dead is dead, the causes differ.

**How to tell the difference from droop to droop**

When the temperature is very hot, chances are your plants are thirsty. I was kidding about the beer.

A drooping plant is most likely thirsty. Sooner or later the leaves will turn brown, maybe curl up, droop over, and then fall off. Stressing a plant from lack of water reduces the plant's vigor, just as it does a

person's, and may be a direct invitation to diseases and insect attacks.

If the call to water is ringing in your ears, then water. If leaves do not perk up, your plant is likely overwatered. It can't handle one more drop; dead is dead. Your plant has drowned, and no CPR is going to help. If you do nothing, although leaves are folded over or down, check again in the early morning. If the leaves look happy and perky, great. The plants learned a "functional adaptation" without going to college. They know that closing their leaves reduces surface exposure and thus water loss. Plants are 80 to 90 percent water and must salvage every percent of water. However, in the hottest part of the day, hydrangeas or, say, squash vines, with their large leaves, are often the first to appear in a dead swoon.

It is very tempting to water these plants, but *stop!* The plants may be using that brilliant adaptation of swooning and are not really thirsty.

Watering plants, especially the leaves, in the late afternoon does not give the leaves a chance to dry out but rather invites all kinds of diseases, mildew being at the

top of the list. Matter of fact, it's best not to ever water the leaves.

Deep watering is best as it encourages more root growth to absorb more water. This in turn encourages the roots to go even deeper and makes the plant more drought-resistant since there are more roots to soak up water. Shallow watering encourages a shallow root system that is closer to the surface and dries out quickly.

Overwatered flowers may be rather small, lack color, or be brown. Leaves look yellowish, and stems may be mushy or dry. There may be "white stuff" at the base of the plant, and the soil is still wet. Plants need to breathe via their roots. Too much water is like killing someone with a pillow over their head. The plants and the person are dead by suffocation!

**Trick**

Because over- and under-watering look so similar when symptoms first begin, try this remarkable trick: Stick your finger in the soil.

Britannica.com tells us, "Finally, some plants, especially legumes, wilt at night—a phenomenon known as nyctinasty. The leaves of many of these species are

fitted with joint-like growths called pulvini, which allow the leaves or leaflets to wilt in response to darkness and temperature. The turgor pressure in the pulvini is largely regulated by a chemical photoreceptor that triggers water to move from the joints at night and refills them during the day. The purpose of this unusual adaptation is unclear, though genetic studies suggest that it may aid in growth" ([britannica.com/story/why-do-plants-wilt](http://britannica.com/story/why-do-plants-wilt)).

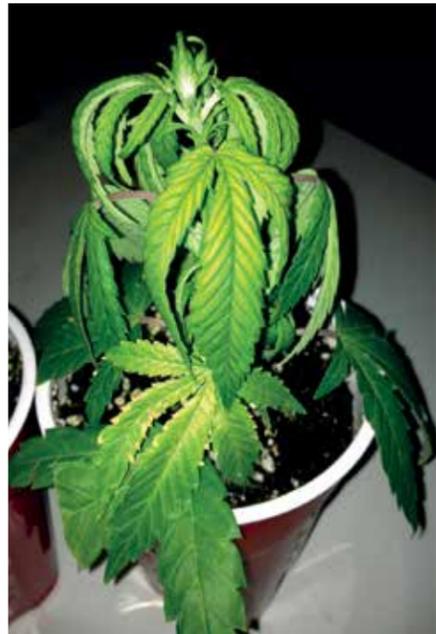
**Basic rule**

Here is a basic rule for your garden and, well, for just about anything: You need a good foundation. For your garden, amend with organic material and, to help with the right amount of water, mulch, mulch, mulch.

*"The watering of a garden requires as much judgement as the seasoning of a soup."*

—Helena Rutherford Ely

Sioux T. Rogers  
littlemuddyred@gmail.com



Photo, left: An over-watered cannabis plant ([growweedeasy.com](http://growweedeasy.com)).

Photo, below: wilted zucchini plant experiencing transpiration or functional adaptation ([gardenstylesanantonio.com](http://gardenstylesanantonio.com)).

Photo, right: An under-watered tomato plant ([sympiop.com](http://sympiop.com)).



**Bella Union**  
RESTAURANT & SALOON  
Great Food, Live Music and Fun  
541 899-1770  
170 West California St. [www.bellau.com](http://www.bellau.com)

**WHY APPLGATE VALLEY REALTY?**

- ▶ We have been providing Applegate Valley residents with Custom Professional Services for over 16 years.
- ▶ We focus on our clients needs, not the commission.

Call 541-973-9185 for a complimentary Property Evaluation.

**Attention Medicare Recipients CONFUSED? WANT STRAIGHT ANSWERS?**

Let me help you eliminate all the confusion and find the best plan to fit your health and prescription needs.

Call Joe @ Joseph Longo Insurance  
541-846-0674,  
541-761-5674, or email [josephlongo4u@gmail.com](mailto:josephlongo4u@gmail.com).

Serving Josephine & Jackson counties for over 25 years.

**LEHI** Family Owned & Operated Since 1976  
Licensed-Bonded-Insured CCB# 96496

**PUMP SERVICE, INC.**

\*WATER WELL\*  
PUMP SALES, SERVICE & REPAIR  
HAND PUMPS-FLOW TESTING  
FILTRATION SYSTEMS  
HOLDING TANK SYSTEMS  
SOLAR PUMP SYSTEMS and MORE...

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

**(541) 846-6662**



## Some history of Cantrall Buckley Park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The beautiful painting on the right, by Louis Arnold, is a step back in time to 1959, before we had a park on the river or a bridge to cross onto Cantrall Road. At that time the Arnolds lived upriver, near the old town of Copper, before the dam was built. Arnold sold the painting to James David Buckley, grandfather of Applegate resident Mary Mikkelsen. It has remained in her family ever since.

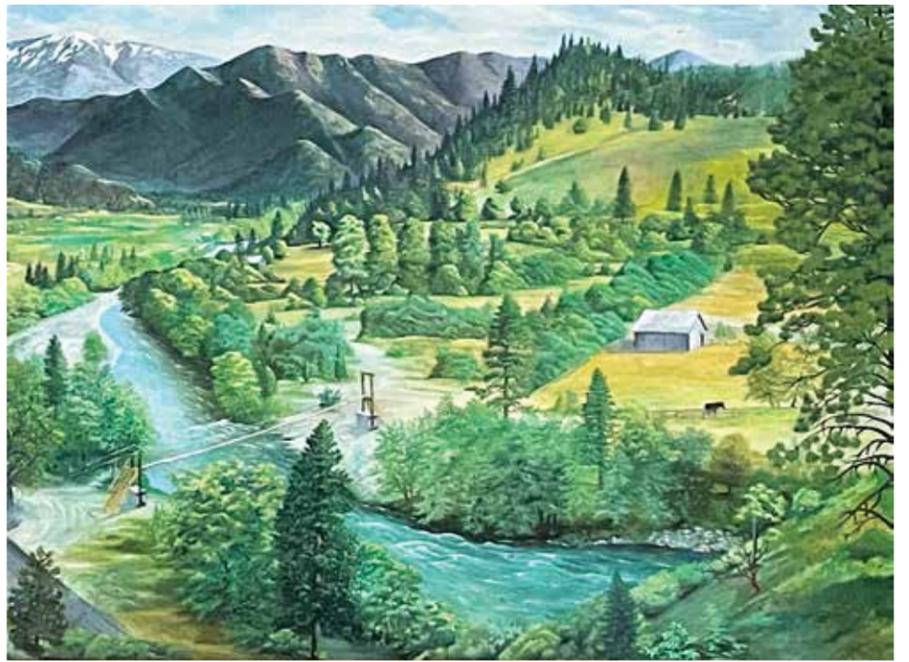
To paint this, Louis was seated on a rise on the east side of Hamilton Road (the gray road at the bottom left corner of the painting). He was looking at the old swinging footbridge on Marion Dunlap's ranch. The Dunlap boys used to cross this bridge to catch the school bus to Ruch School. In the painting, in the southwest background, you can see Dutchman Peak. A tiny gray-white roof next to a straight line of conifers near a spot of river is the Buckley Ranch barn. This barn is still standing today, behind a new home, near the old white house and tower you pass on Cantrall Road, coming from Highway 238, just before the turnoff for the bridge and park entrance.

### A brief history of how Cantrall Buckley Park started

In 1961, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) built a single-lane permanent bridge over the Applegate River to have access to their timberlands. This bridge replaced the old ford on the Cantrall family's cattle ranch.

The first Jackson County Parks Director, Neil Ledward, began to envision a county park on the west side of the river. In 1965, Harlan Cantrall agreed to sell 25 acres on both sides of the river. His neighbor Lewis Buckley eagerly offered to sell eight acres, and a park was born. The Ossenbrugges and the Dunlaps sold more acres, and BLM leased a portion. The park now has 54 acres.

The 1964 flood had caused much devastation to the flood plain. After cleaning up the damage, Jackson County began developing the park, with assistance from the Jackson County Youth Work Corps. These high-school-age youths learned a lot of skills as they helped build the infrastructure of the park. Cantrall Buckley Park opened on July 14, 1968, with a great celebration. A couple of years later, Harlan Cantrall sold an



Before there was a bridge for vehicles: This painting by Louis Arnold in 1959 shows part of the area that's now Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Mary Buckley Mikkelsen.

additional 34 acres to Jackson County, and a campground addition to the park became a reality.

The river flooded again in 1974, causing even more severe damage than in the previous decade. Much of the park's new development was destroyed. This time the river also shifted and changed course. (A painting from this time would have shown many changes.) But with the Jackson County Youth Corps still available to help the county work crews, the park was rebuilt again.

July 14, 2018, brought a 50-year celebration to the park. In the preceding years, the park had gone through more changes due to the loss of timber revenues shrinking budgets. Unwilling to see this jewel of a community resource shut down for lack of funds, the community took on management and maintenance of the park for a number of years. Since then it has thrived and grown.

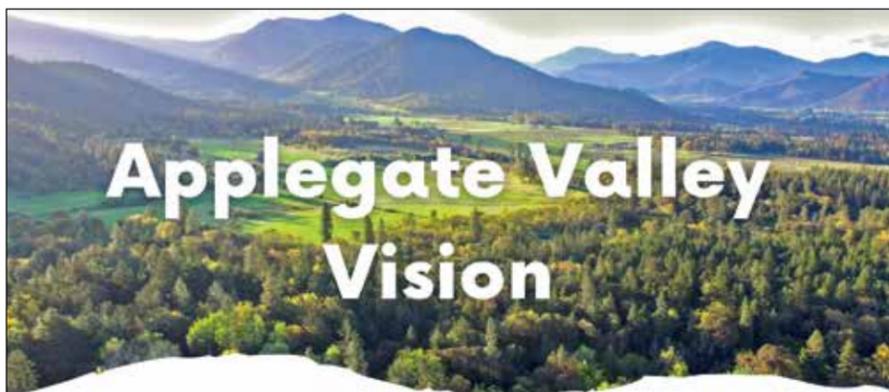
For a more extensive history of the park, see the article by Tom Carstens on page 10 of the summer 2018 *Applegater* and a more detailed *Jewel of the Applegate: 50 Years of Cantrall Buckley Park* under "Extra Articles" (visit [applegater.org](http://applegater.org)). Very worthwhile reads!

### Another celebration coming

Save the date—April 29—for another celebration to honor and thank all the donors, funders, and volunteers who have helped enhance and maintain the park, continuing the values of the families who sold the land and the Jackson County leaders who envisioned this beautiful park.

We need more community volunteers at the event. Contact Janis Mohr-Tipton (541-846-7501, [janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com)) to sign up for one-hour shifts.

And do plan to join in the celebrating!  
Janis Mohr-Tipton  
[cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info](mailto:cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info)



**A Greater Applegate is excited to announce the release of the Applegate Valley Vision-- an initiative created for the community by the community that provides a catalog of possibilities to enhance our beautiful valley for years to come.**



Scan the QR code or visit our website to read the Applegate Valley Vision plan, learn how to get involved, and to support the work.

541-702-2108  
[www.agreaterapplegate.org](http://www.agreaterapplegate.org)  
[info@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:info@agreaterapplegate.org)

Visit our office at Sunshine Plaza in Ruch Monday-Wednesday 10am-4pm or by appointment

### Join us in celebration, and have fun at your gem of a park!

Saturday, April 29, Noon to 4 pm  
at Cantrall Buckley Park

- Tour the park and see the displays and newest installations
- Meet artists, donors, funders, community leaders, and students
- Enjoy good food from local vendors
- Listen to the Ruch Outdoor Community School singers



Enriching the lives of older adults through positive activity, resources & healthy living.

### A Gathering Place for Seniors!

Club Sixty welcomes seniors from all over Southern Oregon! We are a part of several different senior-related services that combine to make the Josephine County Senior Resource Center.

Join us for coffee every Tuesday at 9am



At the Josephine County Senior Resource Center



Open Tuesday's:  
9-11am & 2-4pm  
1150 NE 9th Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97525

(541) 660-2591 | [www.ClubSixty.org](http://www.ClubSixty.org) | Follow us on Facebook

**PACIFICA NOTES**

**Forestfarm marks 50 years—young, compared to the 80-year age of its neighboring Old Williams Post Office**

BY PEG PRAG

This Pacifica Notes focuses on two items of historical interest: one 50 years old and one 80.

**Forestfarm**

It's *spring*, and Forestfarm is celebrating being 50 years young! It's time for plants and the best time to visit this great nursery.

Forestfarm was created by Ray Prag and me, Peg Prag. We met at the University of California, Davis, where Ray got his master's degree in horticulture. On our honeymoon (more than 50 years ago!) next to a granite-rimmed lake in California's Trinity Alps, we decided that, rather than take any jobs offered, we wanted to live in the country and be able to work together. Thus, though we little knew what we were getting into, Forestfarm was born!

Williams was chosen in part for its beauty and because the Siskiyou Mountains are such a wonderful, botanically rich area. Again, with little notion of what we were doing, we built (with the help of friends) our own house, in which we still live. The house is an old Quonset hut, bought cheap from a classified ad as a pile of metal...with no assembly instructions! For a week after the roof was finally up, we lived in our truck, not sure whether that roof would actually stay up! But there it still is today.

Forestfarm was a 20-plus-person-strong "family." We took care of each other and depended on each other to make things work. Between us we had innumerable potlucks and celebrations, all different and all delightful. One Christmas we sent the kids out with flashlights and radios to find Santa, who was lost in the fog. Another Christmas we had a wonderful talent show. As a group we also made two dozen very special quilts.

Forestfarm originally grew only western native plants for sale to nurseries and landscape or revegetation projects. Although natives are still a love and a

specialty, we found that our love for plants in general got the better of us. So, 40-plus years ago, the mail-order portion of the nursery was launched with a 10-page catalog! It grew from that to a listing of 5,000 to 6,000-plus kinds of plants in a catalog of more than 500 pages.

When we "retired" 10 years ago, we donated Forestfarm to Pacifica to provide for horticultural education and a stable backbone for Pacifica.

Forestfarm is *still* at Pacifica. Spring is a wonderful time to visit. It's open 9 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday. Call 541-846-7269 for more information.

**The old post office**

The Old Williams Post Office was in use from 1948 to the late 1970s. This 20-foot-square building was hand-built by Cleo Reel (the postmaster for around 30 years) and her father. This Old Post Office was saved and moved to the Pacifica property and is in the process of being made into a mini history museum. Here's some more information on other post offices in Williams:

According to government records, the first and only postmaster at Williamsburg (mining town) was PC Wood, who was appointed in 1860 and served for one year.

Following this early Williamsburg office, mail was brought in from Kubli's post office for redistribution in the Williams Creek area, often by horsemen, for more than 10 years.

There was no post office of Williams until around 1880, when David John became postmaster. Dave built a fine home for his family, just below the Williams Store. "David John in 1864...the year he married... bought 300 acres near the road where David served as postmaster for 22 years, until his death." (History from Olga Johnson.)

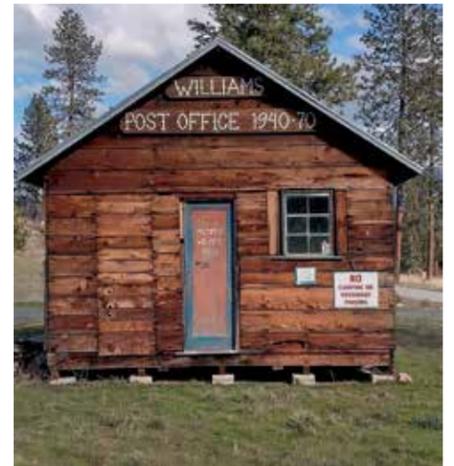
Williams resident Lester Sparlin remembers that the first Williams



Peg Prag at the twin-wheelbarrow potting machine putting plants into tin cans collected at restaurants.



The first phone at Pacifica was a "tree phone."



The old Williams Post Office as it currently appears at Pacifica.



One of many quiltings at Pacifica in the early days.

postmaster after David John was Fred O'Kelly, who had a store on the approximate site of the present Williams Store.

When that building was sold to Bill Fixley, he became postmaster.

From Fixley's building, the post office was moved to a store owned by Joe and

Maud Varner, at the junction of the East Fork and West Fork Roads.

In 1948, Cleo Reel, who had been serving as postmistress for two years, built the small post office at the same junction. That is the structure now at Pacifica.

Peg Prag • peg@pacificagarden.org

**The Sequoia Sanctuary, a living cathedral**

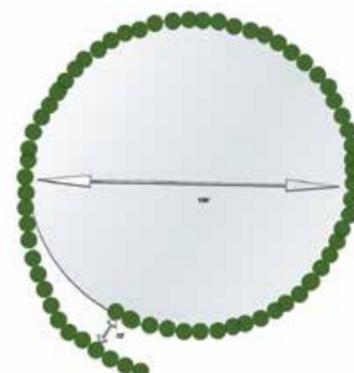
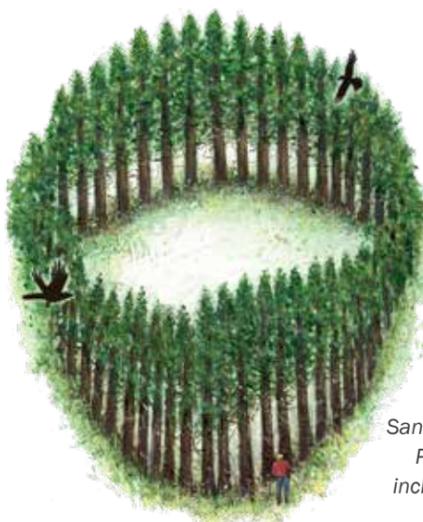
BY RICHARD REAMES

Imagine, if you will, giant sequoia trees, also known as *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, growing in a large circle, 100 feet in diameter. The trees have grown so large that the trunks have merged, creating a wall of living wood. A spiraling entrance (see diagram) opens to a green sanctuary surrounded by these living monoliths, a cathedral with green branches and red tree trunks for walls, blue sky for a ceiling, and soft green grass for a floor. Celebrations and various events are held within this space.

For more than 20 years, the seeds of this project have rattled around in my head. Now, thanks to the generosity of Pacifica, the green light has been given to commence planting. If all goes well, by the time you read this, our little trees have been planted.

The most massive trees on earth, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* can live for more than 3,000 years. This tree is considered endangered. Its natural range is in small groves on the western slopes of the southern Sierra Nevada of California. The groves have declined due to climate change and recent fires. Today fewer than 80,000 trees remain.

This new land-art project is located at Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou, 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams. The plan is to plant 130 giant sequoia trees in a large circle. At this writing,



Photo, left: The illustration shows Sequoia Sanctuary as envisioned after decades of growth. Photo, above: The layout of Sequoia Sanctuary includes an overlapping curl so visitors can enter without leaving a visual gap in the ring.

I expect the little seedlings will arrive around the middle of February, and I'll invite the community to come out and take part on planting day.

The planting site is on flat ground, on the right side of the art trail about 100 yards south of the lake, opposite the bench. The star thistle has been mowed. Later this spring I will begin a star thistle eradication,

starting inside the sanctuary. Volunteers and ideas are needed for this effort.

If you find this project worthy, you can send a donation to me, Richard Reames, 1607 Caves Camp Road, Williams, OR 97544, or go to [arborsmith.com/sequoia-sanctuary](http://arborsmith.com/sequoia-sanctuary) to donate using the PayPal button or the GoFundMe link.

To receive notices of work parties and project progress, leave your email on the sign-up list.

Richard Reames  
Arborsmith.com  
541-787-7053

*Ed. Note.* Read an article and view a short video about Richard Reames and his "arborsculpture" on the Oregon Public Broadcasting site (OPB) at [bitly.co/HC17](http://bitly.co/HC17).

# Burn association held its largest-ever community understory burn in November

BY AARON KRIKAVA

On November 20, a diverse array of individuals and groups came together in the Applegate to accomplish the largest community understory burn yet for the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association (RVPBA). After years of work organizing and growing the RVPBA, we were deeply moved to experience collaboration on this scale. The support came in many forms, each critical to the successful and safe implementation of the controlled burn.

A grant from the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District provided hand tools, backpack pumps, drip torches, and jerrycans. A grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board provided mixed diesel/gasoline fuel for the drip torches, funding for some of the professional fire practitioners and fire engines, and some project management costs. These grants were implemented through the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council.

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided 2,600 feet of progressive hose lay and a 1,500-gallon fold-a-tank. "Progressive hose lay" is a hose lay in which double shutoff wye (Y) valves are inserted in the main line at intervals and lateral lines are run from the wyes to the fire edge, thus permitting continuous application of water during

extension of the lay, according to the National Wildlife Coordinating Group. These sections are connected to form a perimeter around the burn unit. This hose lay serves a dual purpose: to put out any spot fires that cross the control line and to mop up after the burn, when all burning or smoldering fuel within the unit is completely extinguished.

For the event, Rural Metro Fire Department, based in Grants Pass, provided a Type 6 fire engine and an experienced structural and wildland firefighter, who greatly enjoyed sharing his experience and knowledge regarding the tools and practice of using fire as a land-management tool.

The new interim fire chief for Applegate Valley Fire District #9, Chris Wolford, provided four of our valley's firefighters, a Type 6 fire engine, and an all-important water tender, for filling the fold-a-tank supplying our hose lay. These wonderful people, who work to keep the Applegate safe year-round, were able to accomplish training for some of their crew while also helping to support the community with their equipment and skills.

Four different wildland firefighting contractors provided multiple fire engines, professional wildland firefighters, and a qualified Type 2 burn boss to oversee the event. These resources were made



The Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association organized a community understory burn in November. Photo: Reanna Feinberg.

possible through funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and donated equipment and services from the contractors.

The Oregon State University Extension Service's regional fire specialist provided a Type 6 fire engine, hand tools, drip torches, and hand-held radios that kept all participants in constant communication as the burn progressed.

The landowners supplied water, hydration drinks, and snacks during the burn and provided delicious chili, cornbread, and cookies after the burn was completed. Additionally, they bought supplemental drip-torch fuel to refill the jerrycans and made a generous donation to the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council to support future efforts of the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association.

Besides all the supplies and equipment provided by various groups, over two

dozen community volunteers provided the workforce to implement the understory burn. Under the guidance of the burn boss, volunteers wielding drip-torches spread burning fuel across the burn unit in varying patterns and amounts to control the size and speed of the fire as determined in the burn plan. Other community members, armed with backpack pumps and a variety of hand tools, kept a watchful eye from the perimeter of the burn unit, ready to extinguish any flames or embers that might have spread outside the control lines.

RVPBA also gathered funding support, now for a second year, from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and The Nature Conservancy through the Fire Learning Network for the networking needed to bring people together in support of good fire and providing outreach.

Responsible stewardship of rural property for fire resilience and ecological health can often feel like an insurmountable task. The Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association's method of working together with friends, neighbors, fire professionals, and supportive local groups can make accomplishing those goals manageable—and fun too! If you would like to get involved and learn about the use of fire as a land management tool on your property and in your community, or contribute to the continued success of the RVPBA, go to our website ([roguevalleypba.com](http://roguevalleypba.com)) and sign up to receive email updates about our upcoming events and training burns.

Aaron Krikava  
[roguevalleypba@gmail.com](mailto:roguevalleypba@gmail.com)



A discussion of fire safety precedes the burn. Photo: Reanna Feinberg.



A drip torch is used to ignite the understory burn. Photo: Reanna Feinberg.

EST. 1980

PENNINGTON  
FARMS

JAMS BERRIES PIES

KEEP YOUR  
MOTOR RUNNING

AGAINST THE  
WIND  
GARAGE

CALL TODAY  
541.660.9631

general repair & diagnostics, customs,  
hot rods, EV conversions & mobile service

THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

# The Sandhill Skipper

BY LINDA KAPPEN



Linda Kappen

The Sandhill Skipper (*Polites sabuleti*), aka Saltgrass Skipper, is a butterfly of the Hesperidae family of Skippers. The Sandhill Skipper is small with a wingspan of up to 1.2 inches. The upper side has dark brown borders and brown to black markings. The underside has a tan background with shades of off-white markings. The veins give the underside a cobwebby appearance.

Various grasses in our area of southern Oregon serve as host plants for this species, including native species of fescue and bromes. Eggs are laid singly on host or nearby plants. Larvae feed on host plants; then the pupae hibernate. Sandhill Skippers can be seen in flight from May to October.

The range for the Sandhill Skipper reaches from Baja north throughout the Pacific Northwest. Sightings are usually uncommon. Habitats include mountain meadows, roadsides, alkali and sage flats, lawns, or parks. Adults nectar on native composites and clover and may visit a variety of garden annuals in some locations.

Some late-season, native, flowering plants at higher elevations in the Siskiyou Mountains could yield a sighting of this small but sharp-looking skipper. Some plants



A male Sandhill Skipper, dorsal view.



A female Sandhill Skipper, dorsal view.



A male Sandhill Skipper, ventral view.



A female Sandhill Skipper, ventral view.

grow by mountain roadsides, an easy place to stop and look. I found this to be true in late August of 2022 as I was driving in a western portion of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Next to the road was a blooming patch of goldenrod where I spent time observing the Sandhill Skipper and some other butterflies, bees, and insects flying excitedly across the bright yellow blooms of the goldenrod, landing for nectar a few moments at a time.

Native plants that flower in late summer, such as goldenrod, rabbitbrush, aster, coneflower, and buckwheat, are important nectar sources for insects. Plants blooming past September are especially important. Looking carefully in these islands of blooms for late-flying insect species is a nice calm activity at the close of summer, marking the beginning of fall, before winter begins in the mountains.

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

All photos by Linda Kappen.

**CEDARS**  
**STARTING AT \$1.69 PER FT**

**Trex**  
**STARTING AT \$2.25 PER FT**

**ACE**  
**FIELDS**  
 HOME CENTER  
 541.862.2111  
 5285 WILLIAMS HWY

# Applegate Lions Club: Forged by fire, molded by big hearts

BY TOM CARSTENS

“We’re a bunch of guys who know how to do things,” says Rich Halsted, a retired Marine and current president of the Applegate Lions Club. Founded by a group of middle-Applegate farmers, builders, heavy equipment operators, and businessmen, this organization has been quietly serving our valley since 1975.

We commonly associate the Lions with eye health, but that’s not how this club began. It had its genesis when the Krause ranch house burned to the ground. At that time, the Applegate Valley had no fire department, so no structure in the valley had a remote chance of surviving a fire. Phil Krause set about to change that—he organized his neighbors into a citizen fire department. They put water tanks in their pickups, strapped on water packs, and, using landlines and CB radios, started a neighborhood network to put out fires before they got out of control. How did

they find the fires? They watched and sniffed. Whatever worked!

This hardy group of 53 Applegaters eventually coalesced into the Applegate Lions Club. Bill Macy was their first president.

Pretty soon, club members chipped in and bought a 1940s-era LaFrance fire engine. This engine, augmented with their own pickups, permitted this herd of nascent firefighters to cover the whole Applegate Valley. Training sessions often ended with some pretty rowdy, beer-fueled water fights.

In 1981, the Lions acquired a piece of land on North Applegate Road. In an effort spearheaded by Murray Crowe and Warren Buscho, the club volunteered their time, expertise, and materials to build Applegate’s first fire station on that property, next to the library. They still meet regularly at Station #1. Until recently, the Lions always had a club member sitting on the Applegate Fire District board.

Today, the Lions continue their mission of service to our community, like cleaning up the Missouri Flat Cemetery every year, picking up litter along Highway 238, or building the shelters at school bus stops you see scattered about the middle Applegate. Many of our residents’ roofs were generously installed by Lions.

They also support our schools. In a project headed by Tuffy Decker, they volunteered their time and equipment to construct the Applegate School’s athletic track. They do periodic maintenance when needed. And the Lions support both the

Applegate and Williams schools’ music and athletic programs.

Every year, the Lions offer two \$750 scholarships through Hidden Valley High School. One is the Bill Macy Memorial Academic Scholarship, awarded to a deserving college-bound senior. Maria Cross, last year’s awardee, went on to attend Oregon State University, majoring in biology. Maria hopes to become a veterinarian. Conner Wright took the Jim Bottroff Memorial Vocational Training Scholarship, which he used at Lane Community College, with the goal of getting into aviation technology.

You may have tasted a Lions’ yummy barbecue meal at an Applegate event—maybe at McKee Bridge, Cantrall Buckley Park, or Buncom Pioneer Days. Did you know that anyone who needs event support can request it from the Lions Club? All you have to do is email Rich Halsted and ask (rich.halsted@gmail.com). They’ll not only put together a scrumptious meal, but, for a small fee, they’ll put up their 40-by-60-foot circular tent for you. They like to support weddings, family events, dinners, memorials, etc. Meal proceeds support the club.

And, yes, our Applegate Lions *do* support vision health in our valley. Every year, they sponsor a free vision screening clinic for all the students at Applegate and Williams schools. For those in need, they’ll pick up the tab for glasses or other optometry care. Any old glasses to spare? You can put them in a special bin located at Rosella’s Winery on Missouri Flat Road.

Lions President Rich Halsted says they’re willing to support any worthwhile community project. Have something in mind? Let Rich know.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025  
bumsonwheels@gmail.com  
*Thanks to Mary Warrick, Larry Hogan, Larry Buscho, Dan Sayer, and Rich Halsted for their contributions to this article.*



Cooking up a mean barbecue at the Cantrall Buckley Golden Jubilee in 2018 (from left): the late Tom Kurth, Marcos Martins, Rich Halsted, the late Bob Baise, Rex Garoutte, and Steve Rapp. Photo: Tom Carstens.



Applegate Lions founding members Chuck Elmore and Larry Hogan pose before the club’s 1975 charter. Photo: Rich Halsted.



Lions Club President Rich Halsted and Treasurer Don Sayer in front of their meeting hall at Applegate Valley Fire Station #1. Photo: Tom Carstens.

In the late 1970s, the late Alan Wall (driving the engine) and Bill Meyer (standing) pose with Applegate kids (right to left) Stacy and Kelly Krause, Polly and Eddie Meyer, and two unknown children (do you know who they are?) by the Lions’ kiddie train. Photo: Lions Club archives.



## POSTCARDS

Continued from page 1

was taken at the French Gulch cabin.” She points out that the photograph of the Jacksonville courthouse shows streetcar rails and an old telephone pole on the corner.

Historic postcards can be poignant reminders of the past. Mary has one of her Uncle Francis, who died of polio just after graduating from college. “It’s a picture of

him on his horse when he was four years old,” she says, describing it to me on the phone. “He has a stick to make the horse do what he wants. That horse might have been one of the last carriage horses. The Buckleys were famous for the carriage horses they raised. And then automobiles came along...carriage horses were no longer needed...”

Though we were talking on the telephone, I could imagine Mary at that

moment, looking fondly and sadly at that postcard, a reminder of the old days—of her uncle who died so young and the family business that was doomed by history.

Diana Coogle  
diana@applegater.org

A postcard (right) from Mary Mikkelsen’s collection shows a pair of horseback riders.



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS

A law firm with roots in the industry.



## L O N E Y L A W G R O U P

- ✔ Business & Administrative law
- ✔ Criminal Defense and Litigation
- ✔ Hemp

**loneylawgroup.com**

ASHLAND OFFICE  
541-787-0733

NEW 3D XRAY TECHNOLOGY



caption t

**Now offering Clear Correct!**  
ClearCorrect is the simple, effective way to straighten your teeth.  
Yes, we do **Root Canals!**

**\$99.00 New patient exam, standard prophylaxis (cleaning), and xrays.**

Ask us about conscious sedation for your dental anxiety. We can help!

Offer good with coupon only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer excludes treatment for Periodontal Disease. Expires May 31, 2023. Excluding insurance reimbursement. No cash value.

**Rex F. Miller DMD PC**

Comprehensive & Cosmetic Dentistry

570 Blackstone Alley • Jacksonville **541-899-1924**

Clip this ad!  
Open Mon. - Thurs.



## How Clean IS Your Well Water?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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

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

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

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

Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!



WELL PUMP & FILTRATION SERVICE

Call us Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5, you'll have a live person answer the phone that is ready to help you!

Quinn's Well, Pump and Water Filtration is located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. [www.quinnswell.com](http://www.quinnswell.com) CCB #192047

541-862-9355  
541-772-7867



Follow us on Facebook. [applegater.newspaper](http://applegater.newspaper)

## Pulling together: Is this the moment when Applegate farmers and food producers join forces?

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

On November 7, Applegate farmers and food producers gathered at the scenic event venue, Vista 222. The occasion was a working group meet-up organized by A Greater Applegate (AGA) and the Rogue Valley Food System Network (RVFSN). The timing was right and turnout was good; with the fields nipped by season-ending frost, there was time to put down the shovels and seeds and focus on flip charts and strategy.

Their goal? To breathe life into some of the food- and farm-related ideas outlined in the recently released Applegate Valley Vision Plan. The vision plan is a product of the dozens of listening sessions conducted by AGA over the past three years. Increasing connectivity between farms and consumers was high on the list of priorities identified in the sessions.

"We are homing in on action," announced Megan Fehrman, co-executive director of AGA.

This was the third Food and Farming meeting, with the first two focusing on listening and prioritizing. The question of the night was, "What can we do to maintain and enhance local agricultural food systems?"

### Fresh energy and seasoned wisdom...

New arrivals, like Alec Lowe and Alexandria Love Schmidt, from Earth Karma Land Sustainability and Rusty Bucket Gardens, joined long-established farmers, like Don Tipping from Siskiyou Seeds and Maud Powell from Wolf Gulch, at the meeting.

"Some of us have been having these conversations for decades," Megan said.

"It could be tempting to get jaded," said Maud Powell. But despite being part of similar efforts in the past that had mixed results, she sees cause for hope. "Having a strong organization like

AGA tackling these issues is the biggest difference. They clearly have the experience in food systems, rural development, fundraising, and project management."

### What could we do?

The attendees sorted themselves among tables flanked by flip charts headed by different topics:

increasing support for farmers markets, increasing local purchasing, improving land and water management, building relationships between producers and consumers, and increasing food system infrastructure. Written in bold on each chart: "What could we do?"

At one table, Sara Marie Hamilton, the Applegate Valley Food and Farm outreach coordinator, led a discussion on how to connect producers and consumers.

Cassandra Olson, a real estate agent from Grants Pass, recalled moving to the valley and being unable to find information about where to buy local food; she ended up at the grocery store. This experience highlighted for her the need for a central communication system in the valley.

Lale Yasemin Kaya, from Suncatcher Food Forest, mentioned the need for consumer education. She noted that buyers can become disgruntled by local food prices. "They don't know how much goes into producing one pumpkin, or how hard it is to grow lettuce in the heat of summer," she explains.

At another table, AGA Co-Executive Director Seth Kaplan led a discussion on farmers' markets. The three markets currently in the valley struggle to maintain consistent customers and vendors. One idea that came up was to offer financial incentives to vendors who sign up for all three markets. Someone also mentioned



"We're homing in on action," says AGA Co-Executive Director Megan Fehrman. Photo: Christina Ammon.

a need for on-site cold storage so farmers could drop their produce off at the market on their own schedule.

### Overcoming distance...

No matter the topic, common themes emerged: the problem of distance—farms are often miles apart with geographic barriers between them—and a lack of cohesion in the digital realm. Could there be a website or app to centralize all the farm information? Another problem was how to psychologically unify the Applegate. How could the valley build a brand identity to attract consumers?

Commenting on the many ideas that emerged throughout the evening, Don Tipping said, "I could easily say (about a lot of what we discussed), 'We tried that and it didn't work.' That doesn't mean it's not a good idea, though. We just didn't have the social landscape that was receptive to it. Part of the rural terroir is that relationality is important," he went on. "When you went to the Pennington Farms booth at the farmers market, you saw Cathy and her daughters—that was the draw. It was an authentic family farm experience. It was having an experience with a side of strawberries."

But overall, he was excited: "I just texted two friends," he said, "and told them they should have been here."

Christina Ammon

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

### INCENSE-CEDARS

Continued from page 1

genus *Cedrus*, are native only to the Mediterranean and Himalayan regions of the world. Incense-cedar grows in montane forests from Oregon south through California to northern Baja California, Mexico, and east to western Nevada. It is an important component of mixed conifer forests in our region, and it can grow on a wide variety of soil types, including serpentine.

This species is very drought tolerant. It can close its stomata to control water, and it can live in areas that receive as little as 15 inches of rain a year. Incense-cedar is a very tough tree and can live to be more than 500 years old.

The **Studhorse Tree** is quite possibly the largest incense-cedar in the world, and it grows right here in the Applegate watershed! This gargantuan tree grows above Studhorse Creek, a tributary of Elliott Creek, in the Upper Applegate, in a very remote, off-trail location. The enormity of this tree was identified in 1947, but the tree was officially measured by Oliver Matthews in 1954 and declared the largest-diameter incense-cedar in the world. This enormous old tree was later determined to be—or thought to be—two trees that fused at the base, rather than one stand-alone tree. This disqualified it from the official champion-tree register, but it does not take away any of its grandeur. Measuring nearly 13 feet in diameter at breast height (DBH), the tree towers to



The O'Connell Creek Tree is now the third largest in the state of Oregon.

Photo: Suzie Savoie.

over 140 feet. Presently, at least one website devoted to documenting the largest trees in the world, [monumentaltrees.com](http://monumentaltrees.com), lists the Studhorse Tree as the champion. This healthy old tree grows vigorously in a small, moist forest opening, at an elevation of around 5,000 feet with rich soil, plenty of moisture, and space to keep growing.

Another incense-cedar, the **O'Connell Creek Tree**, is currently listed as the fourth largest in the state of Oregon according to Jerry Black's 2019 book, *Oregon Big Tree*

& *Shrub Measurements*; however, the number one, Tanner Lakes Titan, which grew at East Tanner Lake in the Red Buttes Wilderness, recently burned in the 2020 Slater Fire (from embers catching in decadent wood, not from direct flame), moving the O'Connell Creek Tree up to number three. This tree is located on O'Connell Creek, a tributary of Carberry Creek in the Upper Applegate, not far from Hinkle Lake, in a roadless, off-trail location. The last time official measurements were taken in 2011, the tree was 10.2 feet DBH and 155 feet tall. This enormous tree grows within the riparian area of O'Connell Creek at an elevation of roughly 5,000 feet and has plenty of access to moisture to maintain its health and girth.

If you want to see some impressive incense-cedars from a hiking trail, the groves of giant incense-cedars in Cedar Basin, in the Red Buttes Wilderness at the headwaters of the Applegate River, are a must-see. Located at the top of the Butte Fork Trail, Cedar Basin makes for a scenic stop on the way to Azalea Lake. Although there's not a single tree as big as the Studhorse or O'Connell Creek trees in Cedar Basin, as a whole, the groves of massive trees are just as awe-inspiring.

Suzie Savoie

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

**THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE**

# The Tallowbox Trail: The Applegate Valley's newest, community-based, hiking trail collaboration

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) and the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have spent numerous years working to design the Tallowbox Trail, a newly approved, nonmotorized hiking trail adjacent to the Burton-Ninemile Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) in the Star Gulch watershed. This winter, after getting the final go-ahead for the project, ASA laid out the portions of the trail needing new construction and began recruiting partners to make this beautiful new trail a reality.

Joining our collaborative effort is the Applegate Trails Association, a local non-profit trail group advocating for non-motorized trails and dedicated to building the Applegate Ridge Trail, planned to traverse the foothills of the Applegate Valley along the Applegate/Rogue River divide between Grants Pass and Jacksonville. We are also joined by Pacific Oasis, a firefighting company with offices in the Rogue Valley. Pacific Oasis has volunteered to clear and build trail during the company's spring training exercises with new firefighter trainees. The work will benefit their crews, facilitate their spring training needs, and help train local firefighting crews, while providing an invaluable service to the Applegate community and outdoor recreation in our area.

The Tallowbox Trail will provide trail access into a beautiful and little-known portion of our region. The Burton-Ninemile LWC is one of only two habitats in the Applegate Valley currently



A view from the soon-to-be-created Tallowbox Trail in the Burton-Ninemile Lands with Wilderness Characteristics area. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

protected as BLM Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. As the only official trail either adjacent to or within the Burton-Ninemile LWC, the Tallowbox Trail will traverse closed and recontoured roadbeds on the wild and beautiful slopes above Star Gulch, a tributary of the Upper Applegate River.

Once completed, the trail will begin along the banks of Star Gulch (along BLM road 39-3-28) at the Ladybug Gulch Trailhead and climb gradually through mature mixed conifer forest into the heart of the Burton-Ninemile LWC. Following a recontoured road, the trail will travel upstream along Ladybug Gulch, a small seasonal tributary of Star Gulch. The streamside area contains large overstory Douglas fir, patches of live oak, maple, and madrone, with small, scattered rock outcrops.

After roughly seven-tenths of a mile, the trail will cross Ladybug Gulch for the third time, reaching a primitive gravel road. The trail will follow this road upward onto the rocky slopes southwest of Tallowbox Mountain's broad southern face. Traveling east, the trail will climb through live oak groves, deciduous oaks, madrones, scattered conifers, patches of chaparral, and spectacular grasslands filled with impressive spring wildflowers, rare plant species such as giant death camas (*Toxicoscordion exaltatum*), which grows in only a few locations in all of Oregon, and dramatic views across the Upper Applegate Valley and Burton-Ninemile LWC, to the towering summits of the Siskiyou Crest and the rugged Red Buttes Wilderness.

Ultimately, the Tallowbox Trail will end in a rugged saddle between

Tallowbox Mountain and Mount Baldy, with a commanding view across the Upper Applegate River watershed. In total, the trail will traverse a little under two miles, but starting at roughly 2,500 feet and reaching to approximately 4,500 feet at its high point, the trail contains a significant climb from the banks of Star Gulch at the Ladybug Gulch Trailhead to the ridgetop at the upper Tallowbox Trailhead. Once completed, the trail could also be hiked by walking mostly downhill. This requires hiking the trail with a friend and shuttling vehicles to either end. This still includes a 500-foot climb in the first half mile or so, followed by a sustained downhill walk to Ladybug Gulch and its confluence with Star Gulch below.

No matter how you hike it, you will enjoy the Tallowbox Trail, its sweeping vistas, colorful wildflowers, gnarled oaks, and towering forests. We hope to have the trail constructed and ready to hike this spring and open to the public for nonmotorized recreational use.

Here in the Applegate, we know we live in paradise, and we are grateful that local residents, nonprofits, businesses, and the BLM can work together to provide more ways to enjoy the beauty of our region. The Tallowbox Trail is sure to become one of the most iconic trails in the foothills of the Applegate Valley, and the community can be proud to say we played a role in its creation!

Luke Ruediger  
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

**899-1113**  
Call or Text  
**RuchHardware.com**  
Hardware Grow Supplies Feed Sporting Goods  
**Ruch Hardware** Check Us Out On Instagram & Facebook!  
181 Upper Applegate Rd Ruch, OR 97580  
Your Friendly "Savin' MORE Trips to Town" Store!

**LOCALLY GROWN PROFESSIONAL**  
Serving the Valley I Love!  
Evelyn Winingham  
Principal Broker  
evelyn@ramsayrealty.com  
541-951-7055  
**Ramsay Realty**  
The Applegate Jacksonville Experts  
www.ramsayrealty.com

*Myotouch Healing Arts*  
Quiet country office  
Focus on relaxation and stress reduction  
Aroma steam shower available  
John Marcoulier RN, LMT  
541-660-7053 Lic #6811  
By Appointment Only  
In business over 20 years

**WOODLAND CHARTER SCHOOL**  
Woodland Charter School is a tuition-free arts-integrated public Waldorf school located in Murphy, Oregon, serving Josephine and Jackson Counties. Please visit our website or contact the office for more information!  
**1ST THROUGH 8TH GRADE**  
NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR  
Challenge the head, inspire the heart, motivate the hands  
301 Murphy Creek Rd. Grants Pass, OR 97527  
(541) 846-4246  
www.woodlandcharterschool.org

**THE POT RACK**  
KITCHEN EMPORIUM • EST 1992  
140 W California St - Jacksonville  
Open Daily 10:30am-5pm  
**WE SHARPEN KNIVES!**

# Four Way Community Foundation makes grants to area nonprofits

BY KATE DWYER

Get in on the grants, neighbors!

The Four Way Community Foundation makes capital grants of up to \$10,000 to nonprofits in Josephine and western Jackson counties. If your nonprofit organization has a project west of the 123rd line of longitude (Applegate Valley Fire District #5 is just a hair east of the line; Logtown Cemetery is just west of the line), go to [fourwaycommunityfoundation.org/grants](http://fourwaycommunityfoundation.org/grants) and learn more about funding opportunities. The capital grants application window closes April 1.

Groups funded in or near the Applegate in recent years include A Greater Applegate (those terrific Applegate Valley welcome signs), Applegate Partnership (the Agnes Baker Pilgrim memorial installation at Cantrall Buckley Park), Pacifica (most recently, fire sprinklers), Sanctuary One (a tractor for hay production), Sugarloaf Community Association (the Sport Court), the Williams Branch of Josephine Community Libraries (access ramp), and White Oak Farm (electrical upgrades).

In addition to making grants, the Four Way Community Foundation offers networking and technical assistance for nonprofits.



You can give back to your community with philanthropic gift instruments crafted to your specific wishes. The Four Way Community

Foundation has tools to help you leave a legacy that reflects your place-based life and values, supporting the nonprofits you care about most.

Four Way strives to keep the grant application process simple and the giving process enjoyable. Your success is our success; we live here too!

The foundation was originally founded in 1975 by members of the Rotary Club of Grants Pass. Although there has been no formal association with Rotary for decades, the foundation honors its origins and the high ethical standards it inherited by retaining its name, which derives from the Rotary "Four Way Test": Of the things we think, say, or do, ask (1) Is it the truth? (2) Is it fair to all? (3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships? (4) Will it be beneficial to all?

If you'd like to discuss a grant proposal or a gift, please call Executive Director Kate Dwyer at 541-474-9774 (office) or send an email to [fourwaycommfdn@gmail.com](mailto:fourwaycommfdn@gmail.com).

Kate Dwyer • 541-787-5283 (cell) [fourwaycommfdn@gmail.com](mailto:fourwaycommfdn@gmail.com)

## ••• BIZBITS •••

**Las Palmas Mexican Cuisine.** If you're like me, you've become a little spoiled by having Las Palmas parked by the Ramsay Realty lot at the Upper Applegate turnoff. Getting your carne asada fix and feel-good comfort food served by familiar smiling faces is a treat. So: Where's the truck?! Taco gods giveth and taco gods taketh away. What gives?

I caught up with Luis Jr. to get some answers. Sorry folks, but the truck won't be back to that location until renovations at the main restaurant are complete. Unfortunately, that date is unknown at this time as they are still in demolition mode from the fire damage. Meanwhile, you can cure your burrito cravings at the new Las Palmas Express trailer on Fourth Street in Jacksonville, parked along the Las Palmas property, or the new truck location near Rogue Community College on Table Rock Road in Central Point.

The Rodriguez family would like to thank everyone for their patience and for sticking with them as they navigate all the changes. "It's been challenging, to say the least. We are down to just core family and two previous employees, bringing the hardworking team to just nine people from 16. We already felt supported by the community, but it's even more so lately—first during COVID when people were still coming in and willing to eat off foil-lined plates. We know it's not the same as a hot plate at the table with friends and family. Then the fire happened, and the outpouring of loving support and heartfelt gestures have been overwhelming. We are beyond grateful."

Luis says they are still available for catering and events, large and small. For more information, you can reach Luis Jr. at 541-324-0625. The Table Rock food truck location is 6679 Table Rock Road, Central Point. Hours at both locations are 11 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Jennifer Peterson • [jennifer@applegater.org](mailto:jennifer@applegater.org)



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



*Local Company*

# Team Senior

## REFERRAL SERVICES

Providing FREE guidance for seniors and their families since 2016

**We'll simplify your search with one quick phone call!**

We can help you make educated decisions without having to make hours of calls yourself regarding cost, quality of care, vacancies, reputation and more!



**CALL US FIRST!**

**We can help with**

- In-Home Care
- Medicaid Spend Down, Annuity
- Home Health
- Veteran's Aid & Attendance
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Adult Foster Homes
- Hospital & Rehab Discharges

**NEVER A CHARGE TO THE FAMILY!**

Jamie Callahan, Founder & CEO

**FREE**

Senior Living Guidance!

*"Team Senior helped me with everything from packing up my old place and driving me around to look at places, to providing information about every assisted living facility with just one call!"*

- Susan

*Being LOCALLY owned means that no franchise dollars leave Southern Oregon! We reinvest in our community.*

**(541) 295-8230 | [www.TeamSenior.org](http://www.TeamSenior.org)**



# rebel·heart

• B O O K S •

be brave, be true, leave your mark

# (541) 702-2665

**157 West California St.  
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530**



[rebelheartbooks.com](http://rebelheartbooks.com) [rebelheartbooks157@gmail.com](mailto:rebelheartbooks157@gmail.com)

## 'Death conversations' coming to Williams Grange

BY HAYRIYA HANSEN

The fact is we are all going to die and we don't know when. Everyone and everything we love will die one day, and we don't know when.

We are now forming an alliance called SOLADA (Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance) whose mission is to connect people and promote positive death literacy. Since September 2022, we have been offering "death conversations"—classes, workshops, and rituals to support respectful, nonsectarian conversations about death and dying. All events are free of charge, but donations are welcome.

We're offering a workshop on advanced care planning from 6:30 to 8:30 pm March 7 at the Williams Grange. This event will be led by Angela Franklin, a practicing death midwife and home funeral guide who has a passion for advanced care planning. She is a community educator and organizer and is a founder of Crossroads Community DeathCare. She lives in Takilma with her family of compassionate "coconspirators."

In April there will be a grief writing and collage workshop led by Williams author Laurie Easter and local teacher Corbin Brashear. This will be a full afternoon event. Location and exact date and time

are in the works. Please contact us for more details.

On May 16, our evening death conversation, *Complicated Death: Suicide, Homicide, Infant Death and Missing Persons*, will be facilitated by local psychotherapist Tressi Albee at the Williams Grange from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

All events are free of charge, but donations are greatly appreciated. Please join us.

SOLADA is actively working to create a southern Oregon directory for those who are working in the living, dying, and death fields. The directory will assist people who need to find help, information, or resources at a critical time in their lives or in the lives of those whom they love. Information will be forthcoming on our website.

Those on the SOLADA steering committee are also willing and able to support you in hosting a Death Over Dinner event (Google "death over dinner" for more information).

Please connect with me if you wish to know more about our events or organization by emailing [soladaoregon@gmail.com](mailto:soladaoregon@gmail.com).

Hayriya Heidi Hansen  
[hayriya1@gmail.com](mailto:hayriya1@gmail.com)

### We can help you reach your market!

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

For more information, contact:

**Jackson County.** Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or [ron.turpen@gmail.com](mailto:ron.turpen@gmail.com)

**Josephine County.** Max Unger @ 541-373-1445 or [imaxunger@gmail.com](mailto:imaxunger@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: May 1**

## BLM issues Late Mungers decision

BY KYLE SULLIVAN

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a decision to promote safe wildfire response, develop fire-resilient lands, and create habitat for special status species. The Late Mungers Integrated Vegetation Management Project includes prescribed fire, thinning, and selection harvest actions. The project is located near the communities of Murphy and Williams.

"Forests in southwest Oregon are in dire need of active management to maintain and improve forest health," said Elizabeth Burghard, BLM Medford district manager. "The Late Mungers project is an important step toward promoting and developing complex forest habitats for the northern spotted owl and other sensitive species. This project will make the landscape, including legacy trees, more resilient to wildfire by addressing hazardous wildfire fuels near local communities."

This project aligns with the objectives identified in Executive Order 14072: Strengthening of the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies, by deploying climate-smart forestry practices to improve the resilience of our lands, waters, wildlife, and communities in the face of increasing disturbances and chronic stress arising from climate impacts. Specifically, the BLM has planned actions to protect and grow large, old trees, including retaining fire-tolerant legacy trees.

Over the next decade, the BLM anticipates fuels reduction work on about 7,500 acres. The work will start at strategic locations where fire managers have the best chance to catch and contain wildfires. The project also includes 830 acres of



Northern spotted owl.  
Photo: Kyle Sullivan

proposed harvests divided into two timber sales: Late Mungers and Penn Butte. By using selection harvest methods, these treatments will increase the diversity of the forest stands. This more complex habitat is important for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Pacific marten (federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act),

as well as other special-status species.

The Late Mungers Project implements the BLM Medford District's Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands Programmatic Environmental Assessment (IVM-RL EA). This landscape-level environmental assessment lays out the BLM's vision for creating and maintaining healthy forests in response to past management practices, like intensive logging and fire suppression. By completing the planning for these forest health initiatives at the landscape level, the BLM and partners are better able to secure funding and streamline the implementation of the project.

During the public comment period, people provided more than 100 comments. In addition to reviewing those comments, the BLM project team also hosted a field trip to the project area and held a public webinar to obtain input about the project. The final document, including BLM's response to comments, is available on ePlanning at [eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018484/510](http://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018484/510).

A 30-day appeal period on the project ends on March 13.

To learn more about how the BLM is implementing forest resilience projects, please visit [on.doi.gov/3uERiNp](http://on.doi.gov/3uERiNp).

Kyle Sullivan • [ksullivan@blm.gov](mailto:ksullivan@blm.gov)

### ■ DONORS

*Continued from page 5*

Mika Smith, Williams, OR  
Pete & Shelly Smith, Grants Pass, OR  
Dean Sorensen, Sherwood, OR  
Cindy Stevens, Jacksonville, OR  
Lillian & Allen Stewart, Jacksonville, OR  
Steven Tichenor, Grants Pass, OR  
Janis Mohr-Tipton & Paul Tipton, Applegate, OR  
Michael & Paula Tougher, Jacksonville, OR  
Margaret Travers, Jacksonville, OR  
Patrick & Cindy Traynor, Wilderville, OR  
Elaine Trump, Grants Pass, OR  
Ron Turpen & Sharon Raab, Jacksonville, OR  
Alan Underwood, Seattle, WA  
Anne Uzzell, Jacksonville, OR  
Dr. Jim & Karen Van Delden, Grants Pass, OR  
Cary Voorhees & Shelly McMillin, Jacksonville, OR  
Marina Walker, Jacksonville, OR  
Mike Walsh, Grants Pass, OR  
Geoff Weaver, Jacksonville, OR  
Christin Weber & John Sack, Jacksonville, OR  
Gwen Werner, Jacksonville, OR  
Cathleen Wetherby, Grants Pass, OR  
Sharon & Rob Wise, Murphy, OR  
John & Silvia Woods, Grants Pass, OR

### DEER

Anonymous  
Anonymous, Applegate, OR (3)

Anonymous, Ashland, OR  
Anonymous, Grants Pass, OR (7)  
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR (10)  
Anonymous, Murphy, OR (3)  
Anonymous, Williams, OR  
Felicia Ann Acrea, Grants Pass, OR  
Jean Ainsworth, Grants Pass, OR  
Peter Allen, Grants Pass, OR  
Linda Althouse, Grants Pass, OR  
Vern & Glennora Arnold, Medford, OR  
Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR  
Gary Beans  
Jill Brenkman, Jacksonville, OR  
Pam & Jim Britton, Jacksonville, OR  
Sarah Buchanan, Grants Pass, OR  
Jim & Jean Buck, Eagle Point, OR  
Doris Burrell, Jacksonville, OR  
Carmen Cabler, Jacksonville, OR  
Jerry & Linda Colivas, Jacksonville, OR  
Marilyn Corum, Jacksonville, OR  
Dennis Crawford, Williams, OR  
Merridy & Glen Cross, Williams, OR  
Barb Davis, Williams, OR  
Janet Dean, Grants Pass, OR  
Ted Demetriades, Grants Pass, OR  
Mary Lee Denton, Williams, OR  
Audrey Eldridge, Albany, OR  
Robin Elliott, Wilderville, OR  
Bert Etling, Ashland, OR  
Donna Evans, Williams, OR  
Megan Fehrman, Jacksonville, OR  
Gary Finkbiner, Jacksonville, OR

Rita & Jane Fossen, Jacksonville, OR  
Christopher Friend, Wilderville, OR  
Gail Gartner, Canby, OR  
Bruce Gibbs, Grants Pass, OR  
Merle Good, Grants Pass, OR  
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR  
Bonnie Grant, Medford, OR  
Linda & George Greer, Grants Pass, OR  
Hayriya Heidi Hansen, Williams, OR  
Brad Harris, Jacksonville, OR  
Marvin & Melinda Hartman, Grants Pass, OR  
Eric Harwood, Jacksonville, OR  
Silva Hatchman, Grants Pass, OR  
Sandra & D.F. Heyer, Grants Pass, OR  
Gregory Hickey, Grants Pass, OR  
Harold Hopkins  
Gene Joachims, Williams, OR  
Lorraine Levitt, Williams, OR  
Bob Lieberman, Grants Pass, OR  
Dolores and Gary Lisman, Jacksonville, OR  
John & Bonnie Mac, Grants Pass, OR  
Ann & Bobt Manes, Jacksonville, OR  
Jane Mara, Murphy, OR  
Jeff & Carol Martin, Applegate, OR  
John, Anne & Mercedes II Mazzucco, Williams, OR  
Brian Mische, Jacksonville, OR  
Karen Mitchell, Jacksonville, OR  
Jim & Kathleen Moore, Jacksonville, OR  
Kim & Tammy Moore, Wilderville, OR

Jean Mount, Grants Pass, OR  
Frank A. Muzzi, Jacksonville, OR  
Judy & Phil Niedermeyer, Murphy, OR  
Ann Offenbacher, Jacksonville, OR  
Janice & Jeffrey Peacock, Lafayette, CA  
Kathie Philp, Jacksonville, OR  
Sandra Place, Grants Pass, OR  
Shelley Pollock, Santa Rosa, CA  
Alan & Diana Potts, Applegate, OR  
Gregory W. Powell, Murphy, OR  
Malcolm & Andrea Powell, Jacksonville, OR  
Kathleen Pyle, Jacksonville, OR  
Julie Rex, Williams, OR  
Evelyn Roether, Williams, OR  
Michele & Richard Scherer, Williams, OR  
Matthew Schulze, Grants Pass, OR  
Michael Schwartz, Grants Pass, OR  
Nila Simmons, Grants Pass, OR  
Sue & Darold Snyder, Williams, OR  
Judith Stillwell, Fayetteville, AR  
Marilyn Terry, Williams, OR  
Janice Thornquest, Murphy, OR  
John & Carmella Torrance, Wilderville, OR  
Thalia Truesdell, Jacksonville, OR  
Jeff & Ruth Tuttle, Jacksonville, OR  
Two O'clock Dan, Williams, OR  
Mike & Rhonda Updike, Jacksonville, OR  
Jon Von Leden, Los Angeles, CA  
Nathan Wall, Jacksonville, OR  
Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville, OR

# Water security event planned in June in the Applegate

BY JIM REILAND

Summers have been getting warmer and winters a little less cold and wet. Many of us worry about how this could impact life here in the Applegate. We're already seeing the changes. Most of us know someone who can't rely on their well like they used to. For several years now, people with water rights have had their supply turned off earlier than usual—all while we watch less drought-tolerant and heat-stress-resistant trees die in our orchards and on the hillsides surrounding us.

This is a complex problem, and some solutions will require long-term planning and coordination among agency regulators and larger water users like farmers and ranchers. (See "Calling all Applegate irrigators" by Nathan Gehres, Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council, on page 20.) Other solutions could be implemented more quickly—things people can do now, or plan to do in the coming years, to reduce their water needs,

conserve what they have, or even obtain water from a new source.

A Greater Applegate and Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council are planning a "Water Security Day" at the Ruch Outdoor Community School on Saturday, June 17. Participants will learn about water rights, water-efficient gardening, farming and forest management practices, household and landscape water conservation measures, rainwater catchment systems, pond building, and more.

The cost for this all-day event is \$15 per participant, which includes lunch. Details and registration will be available on A Greater Applegate's website at [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org). For more information, contact Jim Reiland at [jim@manyhandsbuilders.com](mailto:jim@manyhandsbuilders.com) or 541-899-1166.

Jim Reiland  
[jim@manyhandsbuilders.com](mailto:jim@manyhandsbuilders.com)

**We want your opinions and letters!**  
**Email to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).**

**SPIN OUT GARAGE**  
ROD & CUSTOM SHOP  
-EST. 1965-

RAY WARMINGTON  
OWNER

541-846-0546  
[WARMINGTONCOACH29@GMAIL.COM](mailto:warmingtoncoach29@gmail.com)  
[INSTAGRAM.COM/SPINOUTGARAGE](https://www.instagram.com/spinoutgarage)

CHECK OUT MY AWARD-WINNING RESTORATIONS AND CUSTOM CELEBRITY BUILDS ON INSTAGRAM

Come visit! Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Beer and wine on tap or to go.



Open 7 am - 7 pm  
Weds - Sat and 7 am - 3 pm Sun.  
Closed Mon and Tues.

Family-run ■ 181 Upper Applegate Road ■ 541-702-2662  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

## OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

### The Applegater board is thriving with two new members

BY DIANA COOGLE

The *Applegater* board extends warm thanks and enthusiastic welcomes to Margaret Patterson and Jennifer Petersen, who were voted onto the board at the January meeting.

Margaret brings an extensive background of work with nonprofits in education, healthcare, community outreach, and church ministry. She and her husband, Tom—with their son, Colin, as sommelier and winemaker—launched Cascadia Vineyards and Winery in Wilderville shortly after moving there in 2018. Besides those two benefits to the board (experience with nonprofits and winemaking), she sings! Following her passion for music, she has served as director of numerous choirs and ensembles and now sings with the Rogue Chorus.

Jennifer Petersen has lived just outside Ruch since she moved there from the Monterey Bay area with her husband, Jason, in 2017. She brings to the board a grounded sense of detail (the board's chair appreciates her practicality), and—extra bonus—she also sings! After we adjourned the first board meeting she attended, she treated us to an a capella version of a ballad she wrote. She is also an avid gardener and a semiretired massage therapist.

Last fall, when two board members retired from the board and a third, David Dobbs, announced his resignation as soon as we found a replacement treasurer, it felt like a crisis. But almost before we had time to feel glum, Barbara Holiday rejoined the board (see winter issue, 2022) and Margaret and Jennifer stepped up to fill two of the vacancies. As for the third—David Dobbs will continue as treasurer until we find a replacement.

If you can be that person, please let me know right away.

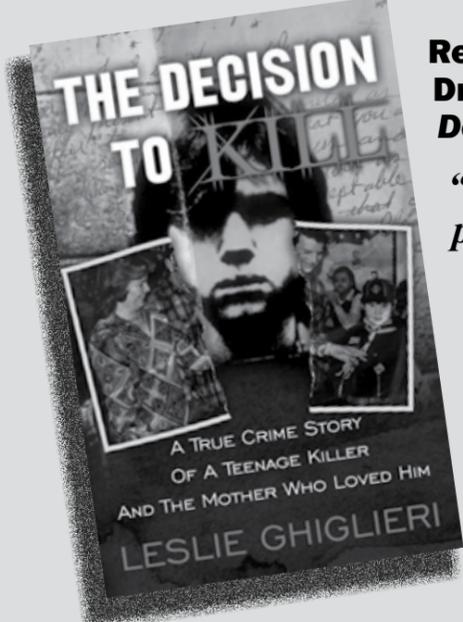
The *Applegater's* board is buoyant and thriving. Thanks to all the board members, who keep the *Applegater* running and who make the organization both fun and vital: Lisa Baldwin, secretary; Dave Dobbs, treasurer; Barbara Holiday, ad manager (and besides being a board member, our layout editor); and members-at-large Margaret Patterson, Jennifer Petersen, and Bert Etling, editor.

I would like to add thanks to another group of people who help keep the *Applegater* a vital part of the community. The editorial committee members—Sandy Shaffer, Aaron Krikava, Greeley Wells, and Bert Etling—read every article before it is published and give invaluable input during the editing process.

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

### In the APPLGATE VALLEY...

a sociopathic teen kills his father with no remorse. This true story tells of his mother's struggle to understand and forgive.



**Retired psychiatrist Dr. Sasser called *The Decision to Kill...***

*"A thought-provoking read."*

**Readers say...**

*"There are no words. Amazing true story. I cried. Hard time putting it down."*  
Kym M.

*"Filled with love, addiction struggles, family, faith and forgiveness, this story is beautifully told."* Stephanie C.

Rebel Heart Books, Oregon Books,  
Barnes and Noble, Devitt Winery,  
and Amazon.

► A portion of each sale supports addiction recovery. ◀

# Calling all Applegate irrigators

BY NATHAN GEHRES

If you are an irrigator in the Applegate Valley, the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) would like to hear from you.

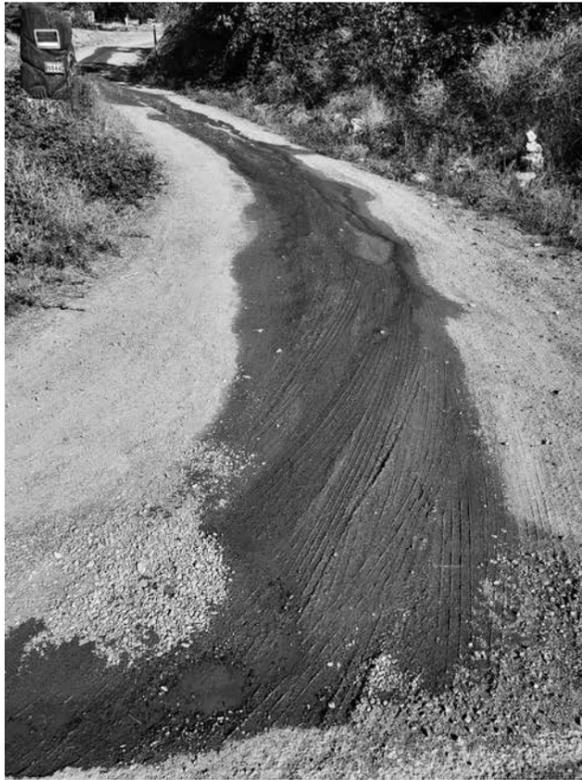
Members of the local farming community know that getting reliable water for irrigation hasn't gotten any easier over the past several years. One of the big challenges that irrigators are facing is the condition of the aging irrigation ditches. At the same time, as the types of agriculture diversify, new ways of applying water to the fields will require adaptation to the present systems. Also, water is becoming an increasingly precious, and limited, resource.

APWC will be reaching out to local water users and ditch associations to hear about their concerns and to determine how we can work together to address all needs, while also finding ways to add efficiency to our system and reduce water loss to benefit our streams. This outreach will be funded through an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant and will be in partnership with the local Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) watermasters and with soil and water conservation districts of each county.

The current system of 100-year-old dirt ditches carrying water for miles across the landscape is being strained, sometimes close to the bursting point. That is a conclusion I reached by walking local ditches, talking with dozens of irrigators, and watching the steady disappearance of streams I grew up swimming in. Irrigation ditches that stretch like arteries throughout our valley are vitally important to local farms that help to support and define the character of the Applegate. The system was developed during a different time, when multigenerational farming families would work diligently with their neighbors to maintain the ditches.

Since then, many of those large family farms have been broken into smaller parcels. Alfalfa fields have transitioned into vineyards and other crops. The regular, communal maintenance of the irrigation ditches has largely become a thing of the past, as the community ages and the younger generation moves off the farm. This new reality presents some problems, but it also provides opportunities to improve the situation for everyone.

One of the most common complaints I have heard from irrigators is about the constant maintenance and adjustments required to keep the water flowing down irrigation ditches. A variety of problems, from fallen trees to ground squirrel tunnels, must be constantly addressed. Also, as the water level of the river changes, the ditch needs to be adjusted accordingly,



*Running water in October? No, it is just overflow/runoff water from an irrigation ditch emptying into a roadside ditch.*

to maintain a regular supply of water. This could be as easy as turning a headgate or as difficult as expanding a push-up dam. APWC would like to hear from irrigators about the issues they have faced and work together to find solutions, such as using pipe in sections of the ditch, that will reduce maintenance labor.

Communication is often treated as a lost art, and perhaps for good reason, but clear communication is essential for the smooth operation of an irrigation ditch. Coordinating the use of water among several ditch members in such a way that every member gets their allotted share is difficult, not to mention the difficulty of collecting dues. Communicating instructions from the watermaster to all the water users poses a challenge. Forming a structured ditch association can help solve those problems, and APWC would like to help with that.

Once the water actually gets to the farm, its journey is far from complete, and the opportunities for improvement aren't over either. One of the goals of the project is to help water users upgrade the efficiency of their irrigation systems—to move from flood to rainbirds, or from rainbirds to drip. Tailoring the water use to the crop and to the setting could reduce the amount of labor needed to run the system, while also reducing wasted water and runoff.

The Applegate Valley has changed a lot during my lifetime, and it will continue to change, but the need for local farmers and for clean water in our streams will be constant, and we need to support both. Applegate irrigators, please feel free to contact me, and I look forward to talking with you.

Nathan Gehres  
nathan@apwc.info  
541-890-9989



*This large wood structure was created with whole trees and logs salvaged from a wildfire area. Photo: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council.*

## Streams: The messier the better

BY JULIE CYMORE

After the recent wind events, many landowners have been left with a lot of cleanup to do from downed trees. When a tree falls in a stream the results can look like a disaster with broken branches, leaves, and limbs everywhere. However, this chaos is exactly what the creatures and fish that live in the creek need to survive. Wood, leaves, and other organic debris provide many benefits to the creek. They contribute food sources for aquatic bugs that support fish populations. In addition to supplying nutrients, the trees provide homes for bugs and other organisms, hiding places for fish, and habitat for juvenile fish.

Logs in the stream slow the flow of the water, which allows the ground to soak up water like a sponge, recharging groundwater that can support the streamflow and vegetation during the drier times of the year. Minor erosion can occur as water eddies around the log, but slowing water down reduces the larger forces that cause harmful erosion downstream. Overall, logs and woody debris are a win for streams. There are so many benefits that, the next time you see a newly fallen tree in a stream, leave it there and over time watch nature take its course.

For the last three years, the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council has been working on large-scale stream habitat restoration on West Fork Evans Creek, a tributary of Evans Creek, near Elderberry Flat, outside of Rogue River. It is one of the highest priority areas for restoration under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recovery plan for endangered coho salmon. In addition,

the project benefits fall Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout.

Past forest and road management practices, including clearing wood out of streams, have reduced the amount of wood instream, simplified instream habitat, and increased sediment to the stream. Our West Fork Evans Creek Large Wood Project has added trees and logs to the creek that will help reverse these impacts and boost local fish populations by improving spawning and rearing habitat.

Through our partnership with Lone Rock Timber, Silver Butte Timber, Olympic Resources Management, and the Bureau of Land Management and with funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and NOAA Restoration Center through the Wild Salmon Center, we have added 530 logs and 140 whole trees to 12 miles of stream. Trees are carefully selected from overstocked riparian areas so that shade is maintained for the stream.

It's a beautiful, organized chaos as whole trees crash over and are pulled into the stream by using a BU-85 Skagit winch mounted on a truck. Juvenile fish begin to use this new habitat within minutes of the tree being placed in the stream, and adult fish use the logs as soon as they arrive to spawn.

The summer of 2023 marks our fourth season. If you are interested in hearing more or touring this project, please contact me, Julie Cymore, project manager, at 541-890-9765 or julie@apwc.info.

Julie Cymore  
541-890-9765 • julie@apwc.info

*Large wood slows stream velocity, sorts gravels for spawning, and creates cover for fish. Historically trees would naturally fall into the creek, providing these benefits. Photo: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council.*



**Ramsay Realty**  
The Applegate Jacksonville Experts  
www.ramsayrealty.com

**I Know Your Neighborhood**

**17 Years of Experience!**

**Jayda Wood** Principal Broker  
jayda@ramsayrealty.com  
541-973-9105



**RISE UP!**  
- ARTISAN BREAD -

*"Thanks for loving the bread, Applegate!"*

**Pegasus Sound Therapy**  
PEGGY LEVITON, MM, CERTIFIED  
Jacksonville, OR  
707-382-8641  
Individual Sessions • Acoustic Modalities



# Bye-bye blackberries at Provolt Recreation Site

BY CALEB GALLOWAY AND JANELLE DUNLEVY

Opened to the public in 2020, the Provolt Recreation Site (PRS) has provided new opportunities to enjoy the Applegate River. Hiking, horse riding, education, volunteering, and swimming are just a few of the activities



Provolt Recreation Site recently received BLM Secure Rural Schools Title II funding to help address invasive species including Himalayan blackberry, starthistle, and poison hemlock.

taking place. With increasing use and ongoing restoration, improving the site is more pertinent than ever. New trails, new sites, and site improvements, including a vault toilet and picnic benches, are in the works.

One important project is the removal of invasive plants. A plague of on-site invasive species, including blackberry and star thistle, is allowing these noxious plants to spread off-site and into our beautiful watershed. Invasive plants are also diminishing the diverse habitat of the recreation site and blocking access to some areas.

The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) is excited to announce that we have received funding from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Secure Rural Schools Title II funding opportunity to continue the removal of noxious and invasive plants at the PRS. We will partner with local volunteers, schools, and the BLM for this project. With these many hands, we can accomplish this daunting task more easily.

Removal will take place over the next three years, targeting Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock, yellow star thistle, bachelor's buttons, Dyer's woad, and more. Following removal, we will sow native grass and forb seed to diversify our native plant communities. We will also

spread acorns across all sites to encourage the more natural, oak-dominated habitat that was originally on-site. These efforts will improve public use and entice more wildlife into the area.

How can you help? The involvement of our community

can never be underestimated. Volunteers will be a key part of this project. If you are interested in helping with this or any other activity at the Provolt Recreation Site, then the Provolt Volunteer Team (PVT) is for you. Led by Liz Shen, local landowner, volunteer, PRS user, and APWC staff, the PVT is the main conduit for helping improve this community site.

Ranging from trail building and trail maintenance to site planning and rehabilitation, the Provolt Volunteer Team has been pivotal in advancing the Provolt Recreation Site. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, contact Liz Shen at provoltvolunteerteam@apwc.info or Caleb Galloway at calebg@apwc.info. You can find additional information at applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events. The APWC would also appreciate the donation of acorns for this project, preferably from local black or Oregon white oak trees.

Let's all work together to help improve our watershed, our community, and our public sites.

Caleb Galloway  
calebg@apwc.info  
Janelle Dunlevy  
Executive Director  
Applegate Partnership &  
Watershed Council  
janelle@apwc.info, 541-899-9982

## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

# Woodland Charter School to add kindergarten

BY CHRIS CARMIENCEKE

Woodland Charter School, in Murphy, continues to have a wonderful 2022-2023 school year. We have maintained our enrollment of 180 students in grades one through eight with 25 stable staff members and many parent volunteers who have created an exciting learning community with a Waldorf-inspired curriculum. We are thrilled about the academic and personal success of our students and are looking forward to continuing to have a positive and productive school year.



A rainbow as seen from Woodland Charter School. Photo: Brittanie McKirachan.

We had several wonderful events in December and January. In early December our students celebrated the power of light, in a time when darkness is so prevalent, through an event called the Spiral of Light. Each grade level met in a darkened room with soft music played by student support assistant Helene Bisnaire. One by one students walked through the spiral, lit a candle, and placed it among cedar boughs to slowly illuminate the room.

Woodland was also able to bring back an event from the past, the Winter Assembly. It was held just before our winter break at Hidden Valley High School. We had an amazing turnout of students, families, and relatives, who enjoyed songs, dancing, poetry, and more. Each grade performed at the direction of their class teacher and gave the audience a lovely showcase of all the grades at Woodland.

In January, our Leadership Club led the school in a celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They read a biography of Dr. King to younger students and allowed older students to hear the seminal "I Have a Dream" speech in its entirety. Students were then provided time and materials to create their own dreams and post them for all the school to see on a display board at the Juniper Shelter. This event was developed, coordinated, and led by our Leadership students.

With a local grant from the Josephine County Cultural Coalition, we have recently purchased a classroom set of ukuleles, tuners, and cases from Larry's Music for our eighth-grade Wolf Class students. The Wolf Class students are in the beginning stages of

learning to play and are excited to become competent ukulele players.

One bit of big Woodland news is that we are planning to bring kindergarten to Woodland Charter School for the fall of 2023! Although this will not be official until we announce we are registering kindergarten students, we are moving forward with our plans to make this dream a reality. We will keep the readers of the Applegater posted about updates in future articles.

Lastly, Woodland has started a great new after-school program that happens on Fridays—participation in the Mt. Ashland Youth Ski Program. We have been taking nearly 40 students to Mt. Ashland on Fridays to learn to ski or snowboard. We will continue this wonderful program until March 3.

Woodland is nearly at full capacity, but we do have a few openings in Grades 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8! We continue to provide an in-person, full-time charter school experience that is different from a traditional school through an integration of art, music, and developmentally appropriate thematic learning experiences in a lovely outdoor and indoor learning environment. We are proud of the care and kindness we show in meeting the needs of families in Josephine and Jackson counties who are looking for something different, and we appreciate the continued support of Three Rivers School District for sponsoring us.

If you are interested in knowing more about Woodland Charter School, or are interested in enrolling, visit our website at woodlandcharterschool.org or send us an email at enrollment@woodlandcharterschool.org.

Chris Carmiencke, Education Director  
Woodland Charter School  
chris.carmiencke@woodlandcharterschool.org

### REMEMBER!

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12. Set your clock ahead one hour to stay in sync with your neighbors.



- **WE DELIVER** MOVING • REMODELING • STORING HOME STAGING • RESTORATION
  - **YOU LOAD** Looking for a better way to store your items?
  - **WE PICK UP** Call us to learn more and get a free quote!
- Yep, it's that easy!** Serving Josephine & Jackson counties

541.659.1800 • GoMinisSouthernOregon.com

► Use PROMO CODE AG10 for \$10.00 off initial delivery. ◀

## Special Offer!

Buy One Get One  
half off of equal or lesser value (\$15 minimum)

# Giannelli's



211 NE A Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Sherry Wehab  
**541-916-8004**

Giannellisatasteofitaly.net

Get an additional 10% off when you mention this ad in the Applegater!

## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

## Report on the Applegate Educational Landscape 2023

BY AMBER BISHOP

So many wonderful things are coming together for education in the Applegate!

Woodland Charter is back in session with in-person classes. Williams and Applegate Elementaries are still schools “where everyone knows your name.” And, of course, Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) is making waves with their outdoor education program in partnership with Oregon State University and local nonprofits to bring Medford’s high schoolers into meaningful watershed restoration projects. After years struggling to stay open, ROCS is now a premiere school that Medford kids travel *here* to attend—they even boast a waitlist!

The homeschool community enjoys support through LOGOS, REACH, and virtual schools, including TEACH-NW. In fall of 2022, the latter implemented a successful partnership with Pacifica Garden, providing local homeschoolers with a *full day* of in-person classes *each week* for grades K-8 (in addition to their usual educational offerings!). Kids are learning team building, yoga, writing, sciences, history, ceramics, and more. More than 50 kids travel not only from the Applegate Valley, but from all over southern Oregon each week to attend these fantastic classes!

Private micro-schools and co-ops are springing up and thriving, particularly in Williams and Grants Pass. I’ve counted at least 10 private programs on the west end of the valley, from “downtown” Applegate to the edge of Grants Pass: Mountain Montessori, Forever Flowering Children’s Garden, Earthwise Forest School, etc. There is clearly a great opportunity for micro schools on the east end of the Applegate!

The A Greater Applegate (AGA) Board recently selected and released the first round of Innovation Grants supporting education. Here’s the list: a new theater group led by Corbin Brashear called Kindness Matters, Phase II of Geoff Fisher’s popular primitive-skills program for kids, a local flora and fauna coloring book project at ROCS spearheaded by Thalia Truesdell, and yet another round of listening sessions specifically for Applegate youth led by Community Website Partnership.

After three years of listening sessions and visioning—first by the Ford Family Foundation and, later, by AGA—our community’s education goals and needs have been clearly identified and

documented in the Applegate Community Master Vision. To attend to these matters, AGA has formed several working groups, including the long-awaited Applegate Educational Working Group.

The first order of action of the Education Working Group is to create an education page on the Applegate Connect Website to improve accessibility of information regarding available educational programs. In summary, the educational vision reads:

“To create a range of educational opportunities that offer safe, healthy, meaningful, and fun experiences for youth, young adults, and continuing learners to better equip them with skills, knowledge, and confidence by broadening professional and technical career pathways to diversify our local workforce, increasing student exposure to the work of local organizations, developing community partnerships, and exploring the possibility for a Community Learning Center.”

There are, of course, a few key considerations and challenges to achieving these goals. Given that our valley is not officially a “place”—spanning three counties, two school districts, and even two states—we’re often on our own with regard to sorting out the boundaries, overlaps, and alternatives when it comes to institutional services. Another factor is transportation—how helpful might it be to have a shuttle bus traversing the valley along Highway 238 on the hour?

Furthermore, our community has expressed time and again the need for a more centrally located *local* high school—not only for our kids’ sakes, but for the community, and to allow our high schoolers to remain rooted in and available for community connectivity. With today’s technological advantages, with the post-COVID collective *Aha!* regarding the viability of alternative approaches to education, and with our community’s particular richness in possibilities for hands-on education, we are well positioned to create something truly masterful!

Please stay tuned and certainly reach out to me or anyone in the A Greater Applegate Educational Working Group if you have contributions to make toward cultivating the vibrant educational landscape here in the lovely Applegate Valley.

Amber Bishop  
dirtgardeners@gmail.com

## Limpy Creek Forest School to open this spring

BY MELINDA TROMBLEE

The Limpy Creek Forest School (LCFS) is excited to announce that they will be opening this spring at the end of March! The program hosts seasonal sessions for children three to five years old. The school was started by the founders and landowners Colby



Tromblee and Jeff Otto. They have nurtured this dream for the past seven years and are thrilled that the land and school are ready to be shared with their newfound community! The couple bought the raw land in 2021. It had no facilities, drinking water, roads to drive on, or power. It has been a labor of love to prepare the land and school site to welcome children and families. Colby and Jeff each play a unique role in making their forest school dream come to life.

Since childhood Colby has been a deep lover of nature. Sensitive to the negative impacts humans can have on the Earth, her lifelong mission has been to help protect nature by teaching children how to be in a symbiotic relationship with it. Colby earned an associate of arts in early childhood education (ECE) at Cabrillo College, which hosts a world-renowned ECE program for students and children. Their child development classes involve hands-on experience for students, with an anti-bias and social justice approach. She then went on to earn her bachelor of arts in human development from California State University, East Bay. Colby shares her love and knowledge of high-standard early childhood education with her amazing staff. At LCFS, they are redefining the paradigm on how the US currently views childcare and education during the early years.

Jeff Otto has been involved with helping children connect with nature for over two decades. A specialist in soil science and land stewardship, Jeff has put in countless hours preparing the land, using his many years of experience building and operating machinery. He even dowsed the land to find water and was able to locate the spot where their new artesian well was discovered! His role at the school is primarily site maintenance and farm supervisor, assuring that the space is safe and fun for the children to enjoy.

Together, they see themselves as land stewards, tending 83 acres of one of

the most diverse ecosystems in the area, honoring the Native Takelma peoples who first inhabited the lands they now call home. Their intentions are to foster the land and create resilient and skilled generations of children who honor and respect the earth.

The Limpy Creek Forest School fosters every child’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Children will develop a relationship with the land, themselves, and each other in a supportive community of learners. The teaching approach is focused on seasonal sessions of exploring nature, doing crafts, promoting literacy, and engaging in earth science.

The school also practices emergent curriculum, which allows for the children’s arising interests to guide the content they learn. The program is play-based and offers children diverse experiences in a natural forest setting. This means that rather than focusing heavily on academic readiness, teachers allow children to play and learn through their concrete experiences in the natural environment. The school offers a low child-to-teacher ratio, assuring that the children get the care and attention they deserve.

It has a fully outdoor and nature-based program that engages children in outdoor spaces in all types of weather. The school has a 38-foot canvas Skylodge, which serves as a covered learning space and outdoor living classroom. It has a composting toilet, handwashing station, and outdoor kitchen facilities to accommodate all of the children’s needs. All at the school strive to create an environment that nurtures the children’s growth and facilitates their lifelong learning.

At LCFS, Colby and her team cannot wait to share the beauty of the land and the creek with the children and local community, co-creating an unforgettable experience of magic and wonder that is so important during childhood and beyond. LCSF is currently enrolling preschool-age children for the spring session, beginning March 27.

To learn more, visit the website at [limpyschool.com](http://limpyschool.com).

Melinda Tromblee  
colibriddiosa@gmail.com

### Stay connected

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



The World Wide Web  
[applegater.org](http://applegater.org)



Facebook  
Applegater Newsmagazine



Instagram  
ApplegaterNews



Twitter  
ApplegaterNews

Bonded & Insured  
LCB 100241

541 450 9616

**HAWTHORNE**  
Landscaping NW

Google ★★★★★

CCB# 177466  
NV 42066  
CA 809835

Paul Crean  
541-415-1081

**ACTION ELECTRIC**

Quality is doing the job right the first time.

Commercial • Residential • Design Build

paul.actionelectric@yahoo.com  
P.O. Box 537, Jacksonville, OR 97530

### Voices of the Applegate

Spring Concert performances will be held:

♪ Friday, April 14, 2023, at 7 pm at  
the Historic Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville

♪ Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 3 pm at The Lindsay  
(formerly Applegate River Lodge) in Applegate

Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7 pm at Ruch Library.

Questions? Call 541-821-1129 or email [dmfrank29@gmail.com](mailto:dmfrank29@gmail.com).

## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

## Applegate School students discover how different cultures celebrate the holidays

BY JEAN HALL

Staff members and students at Applegate School brightened and warmed gray and chilly winter days by celebrating the holiday season with songs and activities. In December the school provided a holiday lunch for parents, followed by a sing-along in which students performed songs from around the world. In preparing the program, students discovered different ways other cultures celebrate the holiday season. They explored music of Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanza, Diwali, Chinese New Year, and Solstice.

The theme for October-November at Applegate School was “organization,” and for December it was “integrity.” At school assemblies students in each grade were awarded certificates for being outstanding examples of that month’s theme. At the January 26 assembly the staff also gave Rotary Student of the Year awards to two Applegate students: fifth-grader Tyson Frandsen and eighth-grader David Cross, chosen by the staff for their academic achievements, good school attendance, self-discipline, respect for school policies, good citizenship, and demonstrations of maturity and humility in both success and defeat. Tyson and David attended a Rotary luncheon on February 15, where both students gave speeches.

The kindergarten through third-grade students continue to enjoy their partnership with White Oak Farm. Every Thursday, the students look forward to Ms. Darien’s visit, when they spend time outside planting, weeding, playing games, and learning about where our food comes from. White Oak Farm recently received a grant from the Oregon Department of Education to bring local produce to the classroom and promote healthy eating and nutrition. On one Thursday, the students enjoyed local organic carrots from Barking Moon Farm in Applegate.

The second-and-third-grade class visited the Applegate Valley Fire District headquarters in December, a reward for returning the highest number of fire-safety plans. The students toured the station and living quarters and got to shoot the water hose from the fire truck. All the fun was capped with pizza, grapes, lemonade, and cookies.

Middle-school students took a trip to the ice-skating rink in Medford on January 26. Although many of them were nervous because they had never been ice-



Fifth-grader Tyson Frandsen, at left, and eighth-grader David Cross won Rotary Student of the Year honors at Applegate School.

skating before, they received help and encouragement from their classmates and had a great time zipping around the ice and even joined a conga line.

Applegate School’s sports teams had good seasons, learning new skills, demonstrating team sportsmanship, and showing improvement. The girls’ volleyball season ended in eight wins and four losses. The boys’ basketball team’s season ended in one win and seven losses for the junior varsity team and three wins and five losses for the varsity.

The eighth-graders prepared and served an Italian dinner called “An Evening under the Stars” for their families and friends on January 31. These students are raising money to go on an end-of-the-school-year trip to the Oregon coast. They hope to make this an overnight trip, including exploring the redwoods and a nighttime bonfire on the beach. The trip will be a way to celebrate time with each other as they complete middle school and get ready to head off to high school.

Mrs. Linda Kappen and K-3 students recently received exciting news. One of the tagged Monarch butterflies they had reared and then released on September 27 was found 516 miles away in Arroyo Grande, California, just two miles from the Trilogy Monarch overwintering site. Then, to add to the excitement, they received word that a second of their tagged Monarchs was found at Lighthouse Field State Beach near Santa Cruz, California.

Dr. David James, associate professor at the University of Washington, reported the findings and wrote enthusiastically about Linda and her work with Applegate students: “The experience of rearing a caterpillar and seeing it become a butterfly is something every child should experience.... The Applegate children will be talking about ‘their’ Monarch for a long time.... This memory...will likely help them become the conservation champions the future world will depend on.”

In winter’s chill and grayness, Applegate School staff and students have found many ways to create light and warmth.

Jean Hall  
jhall80@juno.com



The Ruch Outdoor Community School fifth-grade class standing and sitting tall, like mountains, in front of the garden.

## What does mindfulness look like in a fifth-grade classroom?

BY NEENA BARRETO

“See how you want to be in your mindful body,” is how Lucy Murray starts the day as a Mindful Leader in my classroom at Ruch Outdoor Community School. Students then make a choice that feels best for them in that moment, which could look like sitting upright, standing tall, or tracing their fingers as they pay attention to their breath. There are little sounds like shuffling of feet and some fidgeting, and then it gets pretty quiet as students observe their thoughts, sounds in the room, or feelings in their bodies. After a few minutes, Lucy always asks, “What did you notice?” and we use the time before math to share what we noticed.

The most common reports are of tiredness, the ups and downs of what it took to get to school that day, and the sense of being settled during those mindful minutes. We listen to it all without trying to change any of it. What my students don’t realize, however, is that each time they recognize the full spectrum of what they feel, they are building their capacity to be with hard things. It is not about controlling the class by calming them down or expecting them to feel relaxed, but about acknowledging the various experiences of being human that can sometimes be hard, boring, or joyful.

A simple definition of mindfulness is paying attention to right here, right now, with kindness and compassion. It’s a mainstream technique that is taught worldwide in hospitals, schools, prisons, and senior and veterans centers and with sports teams and businesses. It has a variety of benefits. Student Jaiden Schwartz-Gravdal says, “We do mindfulness to help with our lives. And sleep. If I do mindfulness one day, then the next day I don’t, I get better sleep the day I do it.”

Numerous studies have proven that a consistent mindfulness routine can also alleviate stress and improve emotional regulation, attention, and compassion. With today’s youth and the adults who serve them facing new levels of toxic stress, a well-developed mindfulness program can be the most impactful way to build

a better foundation of emotional and academic well-being.

Since Ruch is an Outdoor Community school, our classroom goes beyond the building, and so do our mindfulness lessons. For instance, once my students learned how to mindfully listen, they stood silently and listened to the sound of the first snow falling on the grass. After exploring mindful seeing, they looked at the sun shining on the rocks in our playground and found tiny insects in our garden with our Americorps intern, Sofia Maciel.

When I taught my class how to eat mindfully, they took a full minute to eat a single grape that someone brought in for snack, savoring its juice and noting how the flavor changed with time. With mindful awareness, we are learning to interact with more aliveness, attention, and understanding of our own internal and external worlds. As fifth-grader Eli Salas says, “It is a time that you take five minutes and notice yourself.”

If you are interested in more information about mindfulness training and what it can look like in a school setting, please visit [innerflourishing.org](http://innerflourishing.org).

Neena Barreto

[neena.barreto@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:neena.barreto@medford.k12.or.us)

### Mindful anchor tips from student Maddy Kelleher

An “Anchor Spot” is a place on your body that is where you can feel your breathing. At first you put your hand on that place and concentrate on your breathing. There are many spots on your body to put that hand!

An “Anchor Fluff” is basically a pet that you can think of to help you with mindfulness. It doesn’t have to be your pet or even a pet. It can be any animal. Once you have thought of that animal, imagine yourself petting that animal or pet. When I think of my anchor, which is my dog, Nala, I use her to help me for mindfulness. When I think of Nala, I feel her black fur, and my mind settles.



The Applegate School Cougars girls volleyball season ended in eight wins and four losses. Photo: Newcomb Photography.

### Food Pantry is here to help

Come to the back of Ruch Outdoor Community School  
at 156 Upper Applegate Road  
from 11:30 am - 1 pm Mondays  
and go home with food when you need it.  
[accesshelps.org](http://accesshelps.org) • 541-899-6980

## Look who's reading the Gater!

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to [bert@applegater.org](mailto:bert@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



Photos, clockwise from left:  
 -Cathy Rodgers, her daughter Katie, and granddaughter Brooke enjoy the Applegater while winter camping in Zion National Park.  
 -Jeff and Carol Martin relax during their Big Island (Hawai'i) adventures at the historic Pana'ewa Zoo & Tropical Gardens outside Hilo by catching up on local news. The zoo features a rare white tiger as one of its many attractions. Aloha.  
 -Lillian Eaton Stewart shares her edition of the Applegater Extra Edition in November with Moises, an employee at Hacienda Encantada in Cabo San Lucas in Mexico.  
 -Tricia Cornett and Donald Rubenstein of the lower Applegate check the news from home before they explore the Galapagos.

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

Located at 12800 Williams Hwy. in the Applegate Valley on the 238 Hwy. between the Provolt Store & Water Gap Rd.



[whistlingduckfarm.com](http://whistlingduckfarm.com) | (541) 761-6772 | Open all year | Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm | Closed Sun & Mon

Natural foods & goods | farmstead ferments | Oregon coast fish | local fine foods | organic produce

Stop in for Pizza  
Soups, Salads & Sandwiches

Plus Fine Pastries,  
Cookies, Cakes,  
Beer & Wine

Located at the corner of Hwy 238 + Williams Hwy  
Open 7 days a week! (541) 846-6286  
**Now serving burgers!**

# CAUTION

## CLASSES IN SESSION

**Applegate Outdoor School will be in session April - May at Cantrall Buckley Park**

\*\*The park is open, but outdoor school activities will be present in the park\*\*  
[www.applegatepartnership.org/outdoorschool](http://www.applegatepartnership.org/outdoorschool)

**SEE WHAT'S FOR SALE**

**SINCE 1966**

**In the Applegate Valley**  
7604 Hwy 238  
541-899-1184

**Downtown Jacksonville**  
190 E California St.  
541-899-7969



# COUNTRY CONVENIENCE

SHOP LOCAL. BUY FRESH. LIVE WELL.™



Liquor  
Hand-Cut Meats  
Farm-Fresh Vegetables  
Applegate Valley Wines  
Craft Beers



[HiddenValleyMarket.com](http://HiddenValleyMarket.com)

7200 Williams Highway • Murphy, Oregon