

Applegater

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Celebrating
~29~
Years

Reassessing our relationship with fire

BY AARON KRIKAVA

Fire season. Uh, most of us respond to that phrase with dread. The calamitous and destructive nature of catastrophic wildfire can generate a feeling of fear. The suffocating and claustrophobic smoke drives us indoors.

And yet, in balance, fire provides for us in so many ways it almost defines us as a species. We heat our homes, cook our food, drive our cars—all through this miracle of combustion. Even without woodstoves, gas ovens, or combustion engines, much of our electricity comes from the burning of natural gas or nuclear fusion of the sun that powers solar panels.

As an element, fire's nature is transformation. You can hold a cup of water, dig up a clod of earth, feel the wind against your cheek. Fire is the element of change. The low-to-moderate expression of each element is healthy and rejuvenating, while extremes of each are dangerous and destructive. Small tremors reduce the stresses that lead to major earthquakes. Regular light rains moisten



Like dead-heading flowers in your garden, native fire-adapted plants benefit from having seasoned growth burned away. Photo: Aaron Krikava.

the soil and revive the plants; torrential downpours wash away soil and flood the land. A light wind carries pollen and seed across the landscape, while extreme winds blow down trees and destroy houses in tornados. Repeated low-intensity fire is also as important to safe communities and a healthy environment.

The policy of completely suppressing wildfires for the previous 70-plus years has resulted in the extremely destructive

See **FIRE RELATIONSHIP**, page 5.



Teresa Kasza holds a steelhead, the largest fish she ever caught in the Applegate River.

Fishing is good in the Applegate River

BY DIANA COOGLE

When I moved to the Applegate, in 1972, the Applegate Store held an annual fishing derby. The walls were covered with butcher paper depicting the outlines of fish caught in the Applegate River.

I still see cars crowding the pullout past the store on Highway 238 when the steelhead are running, between February and March. One day last March, I found

Brian Dirks and his 14-year-old daughter, Cailin, fishing from the bank there.

Brian said he had fished in the Applegate River as a kid. "I would fish the whole river, all day, every day," he said, "Every time you would put in a lure at a rapid, you would catch a fish." Then came the '97 flood. "After that," he said—"nothing."

See **FISHING IN APPLGATE**, page 24.

Be well—and drink clean water

BY JULIA PAVLOSEK AND LILLY ANDERSON

There's no doubt that southern Oregon has some of the best-tasting well water in the state. Cold, fresh water from your own well is one of the best benefits to country living. However, just because the water is delicious doesn't mean it's safe to drink. When was the last time you investigated exactly what's in your water? If it was more than a year ago, you could be in for a surprise.

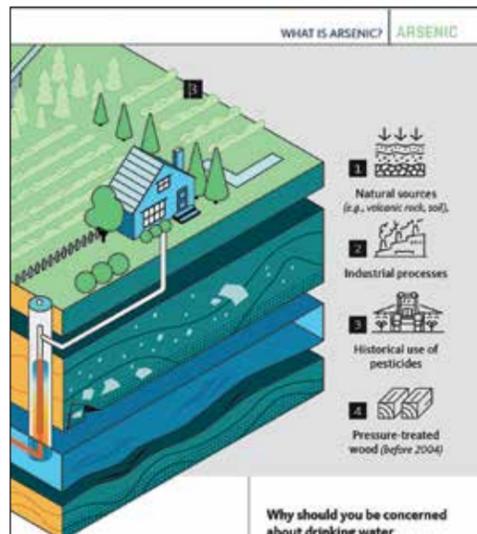
The average person consumes up to 10 cups of water per day, but we don't always think about what could be in the water we drink, cook, and shower with every day. This is easy to do because most dangerous contaminants in your well water are invisible, tasteless, and odorless. In order to avoid nasty surprises, it is recommended to have your well water professionally tested every one to three years. Long-term poisoning from water contamination can lead to chronic issues developing and worsening over time, such as high blood pressure, type two diabetes, and even certain types of cancer.

This year, Oregon State University is partnering with local Extension offices in Jackson County to provide free,

professional well-water tests to qualifying homeowners. If you are a homeowner in Oregon and at least 21 years of age, you may qualify to participate in a study recently launched by Oregon State University's Well Water Program called "The Be Well Study."

Oregon State University's Well Water Program was developed to help rural homes on wells have access to clean, healthy drinking water. Unlike city water, private wells are not monitored for contamination. To make matters worse, rural homes are particularly vulnerable to water contamination due to closer proximity to animal manure, fertilizers, and septic systems. Unfortunately, substances like lead and arsenic have been found to be present in levels above federal water contamination limits in Jackson and Josephine counties.

You may be wondering how it's possible for you to have a problem with your water while your neighbor doesn't. It all has to do with the underlying sources of contaminants. For instance, use of fertilizer on surrounding lands or having grazing animals near a well can lead to a



Graphic courtesy of Oregon State University.

nitrate problem on your property. Arsenic, another common contaminant in Oregon, arises naturally from volcanic rocks. Some areas have more of these rocks, causing higher levels of arsenic. Lead is unusual in that it often arises from man-made products. Lead can be introduced from old household plumbing with service lines, galvanized pipes, and older faucets. Laws have since restricted the use of lead in household plumbing, but you may still be at risk if your plumbing was installed before that change came about.

If you are interested in learning more about well-water contamination and how it relates to your health, there are several free resources for you. You can learn more about ways you can protect your well from contamination at wellwater.oregonstate.edu. If you have specific questions, you can navigate to the "Ask Extension" web page through OSU Extension at extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-extension.

The Be Well Study is a research study that includes a 30-minute survey about managing and treating your well to protect your drinking water and your health. You will receive a free water test worth \$130 if you complete this survey. To participate, you must be an adult and have a private well on your property that supplies drinking water. To learn more about the Be Well Study, visit beav.es/Be-Well-Survey or contact Dr. Veronica Irvin at veronica.irvin@oregonstate.edu.

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OBITUARIES

Rick Levine

January 10, 1943 - April 24, 2023

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Rick Levine, an Applegate luminary and good friend, on April 24, 2023, after a 12-year battle with cancer.

Rick and his wife, Ellen, lived on Slagle Creek for many years, growing grapes and working in education. Rick was first the business manager for the newly minted Rogue Community College (RCC) in the 1970s, then moved north and served as vice president at Chemeketa Community College before returning to the Applegate and serving as president of RCC.



Rick dipped his toe in politics but was diagnosed with cancer during the campaign. He and Ellen moved to Portland to be close to Oregon Health Sciences University where he could get quality care. His survival this long is a lesson in courage and graciousness.

I'm sure more tributes will come in, but if you want to provide a short testimonial, send it to me at shanachie@hughes.net, and I'll include it in a longer article next issue.

Jack Duggan
shanachie@hughes.net

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William 'Bif' Thomas Wills III June 27, 1957 - March 26, 2023

I am very sad to share that my brother William "Bif" Thomas Wills III, of Applegate, passed away on March 26, 2023. He transcended peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by family, friends, and loving care.

There is so much to be said about my brother, as he was an extraordinary human.

Bif, Biff, Biffy, Bill, William—however he was known to others—lived to the beat of his own drum. He lived simply, and on his own terms. He was a deep thinker, very creative, and had many talents and skills.

Bif enjoyed and respected the great outdoors, liked to hang with the boys and the pretty girls, drink some beer, and always have a good laugh.

Through his life journey, traveling the US, north, east, south, and west, he



touched so many of us along the way.

To know and understand Biffy was to really see him. Without a doubt, he was a "one and only"!

My brother was a diamond in the rough, and his humble brilliance will shine forever. He will be greatly missed, never

forgotten—and *always in our hearts*. He was loved by many.

Stay "Warm + Dry, Fat + Happy" big bro, until we meet again.

A life celebration will be held near his home in Oregon at the end of June. Direct message me (Cherie N. John Lhotsky) on Facebook Messenger for Oregon details—all are welcome.

Cherie Lhotsky
chlhotsky@hotmail.com

Summer performances of World Music Choir

BY HARMONY SUE HAYNIE

This June, the Williams World Music Choir will be sharing our summer program with the community at the Dorothy Gales Event Center in Provolt on Friday, June 2, at 7:45 pm, and Sunday, June 4, at 4:45 pm. This program will feature a wonderful variety of vocal mixtures and groups. The suggested donation for the show is \$5-\$25, with no one turned away for lack of funds, and children under 12 may attend for free.

Please come out for a wonderful show and hear what your friends and neighbors have been working on since February! More information can be found on our new Facebook page. You can also email harmonysue23@gmail.com.

Gospel Summer Session returns!

Starting Monday, July 10, from 6:30-8 pm at the Williams Grange, rehearsals will begin for this year's Gospel Summer Session. This session will last eight weeks, and we will perform our set at the end of the summer (locations to be announced). There is a minimal class fee to join the choir classes each session.

About the choir and director

The Williams World Music Choir was started in September 2016 in order to offer vocal instruction and harmonizing

through the forum of World Music, singing "country songs from other countries," as one of Harmony's friends so eloquently put it. Harmony was a member of the Rogue World Ensemble in Ashland at the time and had been able to teach that choir a few songs. But she realized that she wanted to teach full-time and needed her own local choir. Over the years, many members of the community have joined the choir, for one season or many, and most have found the learning curve steep...and so worthwhile!

Harmony has been singing in choirs since the age of five, when she was drafted by her mother into church choir. She has found that teaching others how to sing in harmony is the best thing she could ever possibly do with her abundant energy, and her love of the music she teaches is very evident in the smiles of the choir members when they perform.

Harmony Sue Haynie
harmonysue23@gmail.com



Harmony Sue Haynie

WHOW is looking for a few good women!

BY BECKIE ELGIN

"We do everything. Unless it's dangerous." These are the words of Thalia Truesdell, the originator and enduring force behind Women Helping Other Women, fondly known as WHOW. Thalia started the group in the 1990s after moving to the Applegate Valley. She understood the benefit of having both physical and moral support when tackling chores at her Applegate property. With the rarity of extended family these days, finding the help and camaraderie of others takes networking and organization, and WHOW has proven to fit the bill.

The types of chores performed by the WHOW team are virtually limitless, excluding anything dangerous, of course. As a recent inductee into the organization, I've pulled weeds out of a garden bed, teased twists of honeysuckle from the trunks of trees, built burn piles, and on my own property, helped erect a field fence and painted a kitchen wall. Other tasks I've heard about are window washing, computer help, building a retaining wall, digging out blackberries, and plastering a straw-bale cottage. We are also involved in community activities, including helping neighbors in need and putting in hours at the recent gardening project at the Applegate Country Club. Several years ago, WHOW adopted Humbug Creek Road as their litter project through the County Roads Department. Anything that needs doing can be done easier and better with a group of determined women.

In my short time with WHOW, I've learned a ton and had just as much fun. We meet monthly for a social hour that includes a potluck, always a delicious array of food, and then we plan for work parties. Members accrue points by helping others in the group and then use these points for assistance in their own lives. It's a simple system, kept with pen and paper, and the overall atmosphere of the group is inclusive, relaxed, and friendly. Work parties last for three hours and typically include three workers plus the hostess. Light refreshments are served halfway through the party. Around our birthday we are gifted with a WHOWETTE, a mini



WHOW members picking up litter on Humbug Creek Road. From left to right, Julie Wheeler, Karen Giese, Jeri Gleiter, and Heidi Martins.

party that lasts an hour and is something to look forward to. For this special occasion, as many members as possible arrive, carrying shovels, Windex, a chain saw, or whatever may be needed to perform the task determined by the hostess. My birthday is in December so I'm considering some inside chores that will need doing. Might be time for a deep cleaning, which I'm all too happy to put off.

Most of the WHOW women live in the Applegate Valley. Some have been on properties for years and have developed carpentry, plumbing, painting, land stewardship, and other skills that they eagerly share with members. They also have a large array of tools and equipment to bring to the work parties. There is a wide range of ages in the group. While some of the women are single, others are partnered. A WHOW member can live in the country or in town. The only requirement is to pitch in and do your share and have a good time doing so.

While our group is going strong, we welcome new members. If you would like to learn more, please call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741. WHOW reminds us that dreams can be made a reality, with the skills, muscles, ingenuity, and kindness of others.

Beckie Elgin • 541-292-6207

Three Rivers Community Orchestra Spring concert on June 4

BY COLLEEN KIRKLAND

If you are looking for another wonderful performance by our local Three Rivers Community Orchestra (TRCO), we will be having our Spring Concert at 3 pm Sunday, June 4, at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center, which is in Grants Pass High School.

We are so excited to be newly under the conducting of Stuart Potter. He is the band and choir director at Lincoln Savage Middle School in the Three Rivers School District and is pursuing a doctor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Stuart has extensive experience conducting at both the secondary and university levels and is doing his doctoral thesis on community orchestras. He started conducting the Three Rivers Community Orchestra in January of this year.

For our June concert we will be joined by three local choirs, The Three Rivers Chorale, RCC (Rogue Community College) Choir, and the Rogue Singers, as well as by other singers from our community. We will be performing

"Edelweiss," from *The Sound of Music*; "Ode to Joy," by Beethoven; and "Dry Your Tears, Afrika," by John Williams.

The concert is free, but donations will be gladly accepted. We will also be performing *Rhapsody in Blue*, by Gershwin, to celebrate his Centennial Year, with our ultra-talented pianist Trevor Clements. This concert will also include such titles as *Symphony No. 8 in B Minor* (the "Unfinished Symphony"), by Schubert, and selections from *West Side Story* by Bernstein.

Our musicians are all from the local area and love classical music. We meet on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm at either South or North Middle School and are looking for musicians of orchestral instruments who are passionate about sharing music with others. If you have questions, feel free to contact Colleen Kirkland, secretary for TRCO board, at 541-476-0860.

Colleen Kirkland
kirklands@q.com

Don't miss the Applegate Water Security Education event

BY JIM REILAND

Spring finally arrived in April, wresting the Applegate Valley landscape from winter's icy fingers later than usual. While it felt like a long, cold, and wet winter, parts of the Applegate Valley are actually below normal precipitation. This has implications for irrigation water availability, well recharge, soil moisture conditions, the start of fire season, and more.

Drought seems to have become a constant condition, and long-term trends indicate that it's here to stay. Watching our forested hillsides lose many of the more vulnerable trees, facing the uncertainty of water availability for irrigation, and wondering if this is the summer the well may finally dry up have become annual worries. Praying for miracles and doing rain dances are welcome, but there are other actions we can take to become more resilient as we try to make do with less.

A Greater Applegate (AGA) and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) are hosting an all-day Water Security Education event on Saturday, June 17, at the Applegate Fire District training hall in Ruch (1095 Upper Applegate Road) from 10 am-4 pm. Arrive by 9:30 am for coffee and mingling!

We'll start with a "big picture" view by Shavon Haynes, Oregon Water Resources Department District 13 watermaster, who will describe water use in rural southern Oregon and help frame the conversation about how we can achieve water security faced with today's challenges.

Everyone who lives in the Applegate has a well, a yard, and a house with kitchens, baths, showers, and toilets. Kora Mousseaux, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District's community water resource conservationist, will talk about household and residential landscape water conservation measures—things you can do to reduce the amount of water you use.

Many of us have gardens and orchards, and quite a few are farming and ranching

on a larger scale. Gordon Jones, Oregon State University Extension Service assistant professor, will cover irrigation management and water conservation practices for southern Oregon crops and pastures.

All of us have household water that is suitable for reuse. After lunch (provided), Pat Heins, with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, will talk about gray water. He'll cover what's involved in permitting and setting up a gray-water system using water from baths and washing machines to irrigate landscapes.

Roarke Ball of Roarke's Earthworks, an Applegate-based contractor, will describe the how-tos of building a pond to retain water.

And if you have a roof on your property, you can collect rainwater! Retired contractor Jim Reiland will offer an overview of rainwater catchment systems design and installation, illustrated by a variety of Applegate and Rogue Valley projects.

AGA's Megan Fehrman and AWPC's Janelle Dunlevy will wrap up the day with a conversation about local irrigation, from the tributaries to the main stem Applegate. As we move forward, living in drought conditions, can water-rights holders work more closely, communicate more frequently, and improve antiquated delivery systems to help make water go further for its patrons and the environment? This conversation will provide the groundwork for a larger workshop for local irrigators in the fall of 2023.

Please join us to learn more about water use in the Applegate and what you can do to conserve. Cost for the day (includes lunch!) is \$15. Register online at agreaterapplegate.networkforgood.com/events/56461-applegate-water-security-education-event. Contact me if you have any questions.

Jim Reiland • 541-899-1166
jim@manyhandsbuilders.com

Join us at the SFI Birds & Brews

BY CHRISTINE LAZINA

Nothing says summer like enjoying live music and a cold drink in the sunshine with your friends, family, and neighbors. So don't miss the Siskiyou Field Institute's (SFI) annual festival and fundraiser, Birds & Brews! Join us 1-6 pm Saturday, June 3, for an afternoon of live bluegrass, folk, and rock music, local craft beers and wines on tap, food, live bird presentations, guided birding hikes, kids' activities, and community camaraderie on the SFI grounds in Selma.

We're excited to welcome to the stage this year the Brothers Reed, Michal Palzewicz, and the Lynx Family Band! The Brothers Reed are well-known throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond for bringing incredible harmonies and a genuine brotherly spirit to their repertoire of original bluegrass and folk music, presented with a modern edge and infectious energy. Michal Palzewicz is a cellist and composer who creates expressive and dynamic pieces, drawing inspiration from nature as well as the human experience. And the Lynx Family Band is a true family of multitalented singer-songwriters, with an easy west-coast-vibe-meets-bluesy-southern-rock sound.

When you're not relaxing on the lawn watching the show, there will be plenty of activities for both adults and kids to enjoy. Wildlife Images will be visiting with some

wildlife ambassadors, including owls and other bird species, and will be leading owl pellet dissections. Enjoy birding hikes along SFI's creeks and woodlands, guided by local experts; kids' puppet shows; face painting; and more.

A nonprofit for over 20 years, SFI takes as its mission to increase the understanding of, and connection to, the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion through education, scientific research, and public engagement. We are proud to offer high-quality programming for all ages. SFI provides a wide variety of field courses on topics from marine biology to mushrooms to rare plants. We also facilitate researchers and other academic groups during the field season. Our location allows all students and scholars immediate access to the world-famous serpentinite and old-growth forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou. Appealing to kids in our community, curious teens, developing professionals, or lifelong learners, there's something for everyone at the SFI.

You can find all the details on Birds & Brews, including the music and activity schedule, at thesfi.org, or look for the Birds & Brews event on our Facebook page.

Christine Lazina
Adventure Learning Program Manager
Siskiyou Field Institute
adventure@thesfi.org

Follow the Southern Oregon Lavender Trail this summer

BY SUE OWEN

The Southern Oregon Lavender Trail is a scenic (and aromatic) route that winds through the stunning landscapes and vineyards of the wider Applegate Valley. The trail is an ideal summer destination for nature enthusiasts, lavender lovers, local wine buffs, and anyone looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Most farms are open Friday to Sunday from mid-June to the end of July, and some are also open on Mondays (and some still have blooms in early August). Check farm websites for up-to-date opening details.

The lavender trail begins in the charming town of Jacksonville. Dos Mariposas Vineyard and Lavender, located just outside the city on Bellinger Lane, hosts great live music regularly in their tasting room and are very child friendly. The OSU Lavender Garden is also located in Jacksonville on Hanley Road and is open daily for self-guided tours. From there, the trail leads to several lavender farms in the Applegate Valley and beyond, each offering a unique experience.

The Applegate River Lavender Farm, just outside the town of Ruch, is set right on the waterfront and has a lovely gift shop full of lavender products. Moving on from there, Kingfisher Lavender Farm planted 21 different varieties of lavender on Upper Applegate Road in 2022. Their farm is still in its infancy, but they offer beautiful cut flowers and lavender gifts. The English Lavender Farm, on Thompson Creek Road, in Applegate, features beautiful views of the surrounding mountains, and the sight of their rows of blooming lavender is breathtaking. Essential oil is distilled in their drying barn daily, and they offer many lavender-related classes.

The next stop on the trail is Goodwin Creek Gardens, in Williams, which grows many varieties of lavender and other plants from their beautiful nursery. Last, but by no means least, is Lavender Ally in Rogue River. There the owners have created a very pretty, circular lavender garden with over 20 varieties of lavender, and they make specialty teas and other handmade lavender products.

Together these family-owned farms offer visitors the chance to explore the fields, take memorable photos, pick your own lavender bundle, take part in wreath- or wand-making classes, participate in a lavender distilling workshop, or just to



Basket of freshly picked lavender at the English Lavender Farm in Applegate.

enjoy a glass of local wine or lavender lemonade. Each destination also has a gift shop where visitors can purchase a variety of lavender products, and each will be happy to talk about the history of their farm and their lavender journey, offering helpful hints and tips on growing and pruning your own lavender at home.

In addition to the lavender farms, the lavender trail takes in several other local attractions. Both Applegate Valley and Jacksonville wineries are working closely with the lavender trail, and some farms are offering lavender food pairings with local wines, a great way to sample flavors that might be new to you. Also on the trail you will find baked goods at Pennington Farms, handmade chocolates at Super Natural Chocolate, great food at the Lindsay Lodge (try their pisco sour with lavender) and Applegate Country Club, pear cider at the new tasting room for Blossom Barn Cidery, a variety of tasty essentials at the Provolt Store, and apple cider from Apple Outlaw (they even make a lavender cider!).

Overall, the Southern Oregon Lavender Trail is a unique and memorable experience for anyone looking to immerse themselves in the beauty and tranquility of the region and to sample some of the local delights that the Applegate has to offer.

For further information, visit southernoregonlavendertrail.com.

Sue Owen
The English Lavender Farm
sue@englishlavenderfarm.com

Legal complaint filed against Applegate Valley Historical Society

BY BARBARA NIEDERMEYER

The Applegate Valley Historical Society (AVHS) has been issued a court summons and complaint from the landowner whose property borders the museum property at 15050 Highway 238, across from the Applegate Store. The landowner wants to take the land back because they are under the mistaken impression that AVHS no longer exists. Until this issue is resolved, the AVHS building will remain where it is.

The old building is 18 feet by 18 feet, made of hand-hewn timbers. Located about 1.3 miles down North Applegate Road, it was operated as a general store on the William Pernoll estate in the 1860s, until a new store was built on the corner of North Applegate and Highway 238.

In the late 1970s, Fred West, owner of the Pernoll property, gave the building to



The Applegate Valley Historical Society building on Highway 238 in Applegate.

George McUne, who relocated it to his Pioneer Village, a sort of living history museum in Jacksonville. When Pioneer Village closed in 1985, the building was declared surplus. It was then that

See AVHS, page 7.

POETRY CORNER

Fire Season 2022: To August, in the hottest year now on record

By Lisa E Baldwin
leb97527@gmail.com

As this brutal season begins
to come to its end,
begins to wind down to something kinder,
the scent of Autumn a hint in the morning air,
our eyes stay focused on the near horizon,
looking for signs warning us
this summer will not go
quietly into its goodnight.

What new heartache might you bring?
What more sacrifice will you demand?
Another hundred-thousand trees?
Salmon belly-up in a hot river,
muddied, reddened and fouled?
Perhaps the silencing of frogs,
or the growing absence of birdsong?
In truth, the penance should be ours,
as is the sin, the blame,
the crying shame.

Oh, August, will you exact a full reckoning
and without mercy
take the forests,
chum the waters,
choke the breath from the sky?
Oh, ash will fall on the butterfly's wings
and even song sparrows
won't sing.

Lisa E Baldwin, a fifth-generation native Oregonian, lives in the Lower Applegate Valley. Lisa taught English in Grants Pass for 30 years, retiring in 2015. Currently, as owner of N8tive Run Enterprises, she works as a poetry evangelist—writing and publishing poetry, organizing and teaching poetry workshops, spreading the good news of the poetry world, and encouraging others to write as an act of art. Lisa serves as secretary on the *Applegater* Board of Directors.

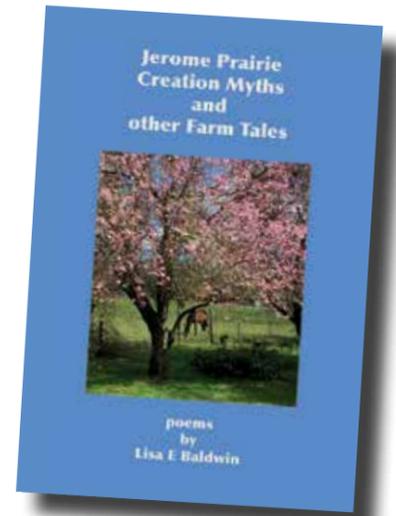
Have a submission for Poetry Corner, either by an Applegate resident or about the Applegate? Email it to *Applegater* poetry editor Paul Tipton at ptipton4u2c@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Jerome Prairie Creation Myths and other Farm Tales

Lisa E Baldwin
N8tive Run Press, 2023

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



From "This Flight Cannot be Cancelled"

*Here, where I write, I have much:
An open view across the valley
To mountains rising in the west;
Space enough for solitude
But no yawning loneliness.
(p. 69)*

Between the covers of this book we find a collection of homegrown poems from our own word-wise Lisa Baldwin. In herself she has become one life and image with the Applegate and southern Oregon. Raised here, she lived all her life within miles of her childhood home. Her poetic voice resonates with the sounds of this land. The images and stories we discover in her poems rise up from this ground and fly through this sky. We need only to open and raise our eyes to see.

It seems to me that most reviews of poetry focus on the poets themselves—on their souls and what they see, hear, touch—on what life does to them, how the sensual world inhabits them and how efforts to transform life into words ends in self-transformation. A poem is the result of an alchemy of the poet's soul. So it is with Lisa Baldwin.

Lisa's poems reveal a daughter of earth, a watcher and worshipper of earth's mysteries, a theologian of earth's elements. A gardening priestess of earth's soil and waters, mountains, prairies, woods, and sky, she takes hawks, swallows, and bees as her acolytes. All of it is here in the poems. More than that is here. The people of the Applegate are here. We are here. The seasons of Jerome Prairie are here. Smoke and fog over the Siskiyou mountains—here they are in poems of summer and summer's end. The poet who is our neighbor gives all of this to us, a home in which to work, play, contemplate, and love.

From "High Desert Gospel"

*This place is mother to nothing
But time, borne out in the gnarled junipers,
Witnessed in the symbiosis
Of want and satisfaction as a single
frame of mind.
A density of memory is the lone excess;
Petroglyphs, trail ruts, range fire chars—
Recollections spanning ten-
thousand years—*

*Occupy the same present and leave
Still open space for a high desert miracle:
A singular sense of self,
Knowing the terrible smallness of one.
It's a slow climb to a stone
Lesson of the will. Low
Thunder gives it voice.
(p. 53)*

Maybe you will sit leaning against a tree at Cantrall Buckley Park, down by the river where you can hear the water tumbling over rocks, and read this book, slowly, letting Lisa bring your own experience of this intense land to your mind and heart. Nothing foreign resides in these pages. Likely you will see yourself walking through the pages. You will remember the year the garden flourished, another year when the blackberries by the stream dried hard and sour on the vine. Lisa sees it all and she makes words of it.

Jerome Prairie Creation Myths and other Farm Tales is available at Oregon Books, in Grants Pass, and at Rebel Heart, in Jacksonville, as well as from any other bookstore that will order a copy, using the ISBN (979-8-9866994-1-7). Also, it is possible to order directly from Lisa and receive a signed copy. Contact N8tive Run Press (that's Lisa herself, fulfilling a lifelong dream) at n8tive-run-enterprises.weeblysite.com.

Just one more of Lisa before I go:

"Home in the Still Hours"

*At times I feel the smallness of my life
Here on these few acres
Where I have everything I need:
Good dirt to plant in,
Space to be alone and my tribe nearby,
An open view to the mountains,
A peaceful sky above,
Deep, deep roots that feed me,
And ghosts I know and love.
(p. 23)*

Christin Lore Weber
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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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P.O. Box 537, Jacksonville, OR 97530

**Food Pantry
is here to help**

Come to the back of Ruch Outdoor Community School at 156 Upper Applegate Road, 11:30 am-1 pm Mondays and go home with food when you need it.
accesshelps.org
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Questions? Call David Franklin at 541-821-1129.

~ 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, Carla David, Jeanette LeTourneux, and Paul Tipton for proofing; David Dobbs for bookkeeping; Webmaster Joe Lavine; and Barbara Holiday for layout.

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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 gater@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530

■ FIRE RELATIONSHIP

Continued from page 1

wildfires we now experience. Historic fire-return intervals in our area were 7-10 years, meaning that fire moved across every acre of our landscape, on average, every 10 years or less. This fire was low to moderate in intensity, burning what little fuel had accumulated since the previous fire and reducing the in-growth of trees and shrubs. With fire reducing the fuel load on a regular basis, only six percent of historic wildfire burned at high severity. Having prevented this regular low-intensity consumption of light fuels, we now have accumulations of fuel 7-10 times larger than would have historically existed. When natural and human-caused fires move across the landscape with these increased fuel loads, the high-intensity, catastrophic conflagrations we now experience are the result. Currently, 36 percent of a wildfire area burns at high severity, a six-fold increase (doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2702). We need intentional, repeated, low-intensity fire to reduce and mitigate high-intensity wildfire.

Utilizing fire as a land management tool has benefits beyond reducing wildfire severity. Fire allows nutrients trapped in dead plant matter to be recycled back into the soil to fertilize the trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses native to our forests. In cooler, wetter forest ecosystems, decomposition and decay is the process that breaks down this dead plant matter to cycle nutrients back into the forest. In our hot, dry climate, decay and decomposition are limited, so fire plays the role of recycler. In addition to the boost of nutrients, our native fire-adapted plants benefit from having seasoned growth burned away. Like dead-heading flowers in your garden, fire causes vigorous new sprouts to emerge from the undamaged roots. This new growth is superior browse for deer and other wildlife; fire benefits our native animals as well. Some of our native plants, like manzanita and knobcone pine, need fire to release their seeds and get them to sprout. While benefiting our native plants, fire is useful in reducing invasive species of plants and grasses that do not have the fire adaptations of our local flora.

With this broad range of benefits, it's clear that fire is a vital element in our landscape and lives. Next time you hear "fire season," I hope you take a moment to appreciate all the ways we benefit from fire.

To help put this element back into our toolbox, the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association (RVPBA) is bringing interested landowners and community members together with experienced fire practitioners to share the knowledge, skills, and tools of beneficial fire use. Working together as a community we can bring more of this important element back onto our landscape. If you're interested in learning more and getting involved, visit our website at roguevalleypba.com.

Aaron Krikava

roguevalleypba@gmail.com

RVPBA has gathered funding support, now for a second year—from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the US 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 for outreach, such as writing this article.

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

SASQUATCH

- Anonymous, San Francisco, CA
- Fund for Nonprofit News at the Miami Foundation
- Sara Katz & David Markle, Williams, OR

BEAR

- Junelle Benedict & Adelle Waln, Jacksonville, OR
- Three Bears Charitable Trust, Jacksonville, OR

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

Next deadline: August 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Sue Owen for the photo (taken by Cate Battles) of her lovely lavender field at the English Lavender Farm. (See Sue's article on page 3.)

Have a photo for the Fall 2023 *Applegater*? Email it to gater@applegater.org.

Correction

A donor acknowledgement on page 5 of the spring edition gave an incorrect city and state. The Three Bears Charitable Trust is based in Jacksonville, Oregon.

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 Barbara Holiday at barbara@applegater.org.

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Editorial Calendar

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

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— Applegate Library —

Cultural events and family programs offered



— Ruch Library —

New hours and new open day

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

BY DAVID HAYWOOD

The Summer Reading Program theme this year is “Level Up!”: Level Up with the latest happenings at the Applegate library (jcls.org/branch/applegate). From our cultural events (look for the Applegate Music Festival coming this fall!) and eclectic displays and art to family programs and fun Take-&-Make kits, there’s something for everyone. For countywide events, please go to jcls.org.

Upcoming events

Knit Don’t Quit: Drop-in Knitting Time, 18+ years. Thursday, June 8, and Thursday, June 15, 4-6 pm. Local knitter Beate Foit will be on hand to guide your projects during this drop-in knitting time. Beate Foit is originally from Germany and moved to the Applegate 19 years ago. She loves knitting and has taught knitting and design in adult education classes and has given workshops for children. Knitting to her is a form of meditation and relaxation. Most of all, she loves sharing what she knows and loves to help others finish their projects—as long as it is fun for everyone.

Level Up Your Bookish Bites: Kingdom Hearts Sea Salt Ice Cream, 13+ Years. Summer is hot, so cool down with some ice cream! This recipe, inspired by Kingdom Hearts, will make you a bunch of sea salt ice cream popsicles! All nonperishable items, and popsicle molds, are included in your kit! This program is a Take & Make, available while supplies last, starting Tuesday, June 13.

Rocks, Minerals, & Fossils with Bugs-R-U’s, 3+ Years. Thursday, June 22, 1-2 pm. Learn about the basic types of rocks and minerals, including fossils, and have an in-depth discussion about the use minerals in everyday life—oils, plastics, salt, etc. The creation of fossils and Oregon geology will also be highlighted. Participants receive free rock samples for their own collections.

Level Up: Animal Meet-and-Greet with Wildlife Images, 6+ years. Friday, June 30, 11 am-12 pm. Level up your knowledge of the animal world! Learn more about animals and animal rehabilitation with Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center. In this program you’ll listen to a read-aloud, learn about animals, and meet one of the animal ambassadors from Wildlife Images!

Safari Animals and Quicksand Dig with Bugs-R-U’s, 5+ Years. Thursday, August 3, 1-2 pm. We will be learning about 15 well-known animals from Africa and Asia. The best part is the petting! Furs, pelts, horns, skulls, and feathers from amazing animals! At the end of the program, you’ll get a chance to help save an animal that has gotten stuck in the quicksand. You get to take it home with you!

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.

Wi-Fi is available in our parking lot 24-7 and inside our building during open hours.

A Digital Services representative from Jackson County Library Services will be here on Tuesdays from 10 am-12:30 pm on a first come, first served basis. Or you can make an appointment at digitalservices@jcls.org or call 541-734-3990.

Preschool Storytime is Fridays from 11-11:30 am.

Christine Grubb
541-846-7346
cgrubb@jcls.org

Applegate Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
18485 North Applegate Road, Applegate

Since my last article, a lot has changed at Jackson County Library System (JCLS). First and foremost, we have now expanded hours system-wide, which means your local branch at Ruch has even more time to serve you. The new hours at the Ruch branch are:

Tuesdays: 10 am-4 pm
Wednesdays: 10 am-4 pm (New!)
Thursdays: 12-7 pm
Saturdays: 12-4 pm

On April 13, we held our first session of Kaleidoscope Play & Learn, which was a huge success! Both parents and kids are loving it, and attendance jumped so much in the second week that we’re starting to wonder if we might need a bigger space to host it. It is held from 10:30 am-12 pm every Thursday in our Community Room, and, with the new hours, everyone can go right into the library when the program is finished!

This spring and summer, we have some fun and informative programs for you, your friends, and family.

Starting June 15, we will have a sea salt ice cream Take & Make inspired by Kingdom Hearts. All nonperishable items and popsicle molds are included in your kit! Come and get them while supplies last!

On June 24, 1-3 pm, we will host Dolores Lisman as she talks about what life was like for a young female member of a mining family at the turn of the century in the Upper Applegate of southern Oregon. This presentation is based on the book *The Secret Diary of Emily: A Gold Miner’s Daughter*, by C. Ellen Watts. Ms. Watts is the daughter of Uvena Emily Arnold, the actual gold miner’s daughter in the book. Dolores Lisman will also discuss the presenter’s phone conversations with Ms. Watts about the story behind the writing of her mother’s diary. Ages 18 and up.

On July 15, 1-3 pm, come see a book talk from the author of *The Station Master’s Wife*, Sue DeMarinis. Her new book, *Hidden in Haarlem*, takes the reader through tense and harrowing true-life tales revealed in 95-year-old Johan’s memories. This survivor recounts his family’s participation in deadly games of rebellion against the Third Reich when they joined the Dutch Resistance in courageous acts of sabotage and hiding the persecuted. Things get personal when the Gestapo eventually comes for Johan and his stepbrother. Ages 18 and up.

If you’ve enjoyed the musical performances held at the Ruch Library in the past year, you’ll love our Authentic Didgeridoo Performance with Tyler Spencer on August 2, 1-2 pm. Tyler, based out of Newport, Oregon, has been performing, teaching, and making didgeridoos for 20-plus years, and he is one of the most accomplished and talented didge players in the US. Tyler has performed internationally, and his music has been showcased on movies and television, most notably for the HBO series *Dexter*. Perhaps more importantly, Tyler loves to perform for kids and families. His shows are energetic and participatory, and he invites audience members to dance and play clapsticks to his funky rhythms. His shows also include storytelling and information about didgeridoo history and crafting. Ages 5 and up.

On August 10, 1-2 pm, we have a program on Spiders and Scorpions (and other arachnids) with Bugs R Us. Those things of nightmares are explained in a positive way! We explain the differences between insects and arachnids and why the spiders and scorpions are so important for humans and the environment. Body structures, venoms, and different species are discussed. Includes hands-on time with live arachnids, including a tarantula, whip-scorpion, and non-pettable local wood scorpion, as well as various preserved examples from all over the world. Visitors receive a spider ring and ID sheets for different species of spiders. Ages three and up.

Finally, as many of you know, I have moved on from my Ruch Branch Manager position at JCLS to the Lower Rogue Area Manager position. Thank you so much for welcoming me. I have loved the time I was lucky enough to have with your beautiful community. I look forward to continuing my work there in my new role.

This means that, as of now, Ruch does not have a branch manager. However, we are working hard to find one, and I hope that by the time you read this, we will have someone new for you all to welcome in the same way you welcomed me.

Thank you again for everything.

David Haywood
Rogue River Branch Library Manager
Lower Rogue Area Manager
Jackson County Library Services
541-864-8862

Ruch Library is located at 7919 Highway 238, Ruch. 541-899-7438.

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

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Rogue Valley Food System needs distribution contractors

BY ABIGAIL BLINN

The Rogue Valley Food System Network (RVFSN) is hiring for a few *Rogue Flavor Guide* distribution contractors!

The *Rogue Flavor Guide* is a food and farm directory for Jackson and Josephine counties. Now in its 19th year, this guide continues to bring consumers comprehensive information about fresh, wholesome, and sustainably produced foods.

It also educates and advocates in the realm of traditional agriculture’s place in a robust regional economy. The guide has a wealth of resources at readers’ fingertips—on paper and online—for easy reference anytime, all year.

RVFSN is looking for a few distribution contractors to share these guides in their areas, servicing the Medford area, Grants Pass, Shady Cove, the Illinois Valley, the Applegate Valley, and the Ashland area. This role gives the opportunity to meet the wonderful farm and food businesses that make the Rogue Valley the agricultural hub that it is!

Questions? Contact me at abigail@rvfoodsystem.org. Thank you!

Abigail Blinn, BS RDN • Network Coordinator

Rogue Valley Food System Network

717-398-5907 • abigail@rvfoodsystem.org

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Fire and water and *ice cream*

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) offers a summertime twist on this *Applegater's* theme: Ice cream! Join MBHS for an ice cream social at McKee Bridge on Saturday, June 10, from 11 am-3 pm. How about a root beer float while you float in the swimming hole? We'll sell yummy novelties, drinks, and snacks. Face painting. The Old Time Fiddlers from noon-2 pm. We'll present the check to scholarship winner Natalia Sahr during intermission at 1 pm. (Timothy Root will receive his at his family reunion.)

While enjoying your treat at the social, check out an exhibit about the history of social life in the Applegate Valley, from the Athapaskan Nee-Dash feather dances to pioneer dance halls, baseball tournaments, picnics, and horse races, to Grandma Aggie's revival of Takelma practices to inspire the entire community. The History Working Group of A Greater Applegate has provided financial support for this display.

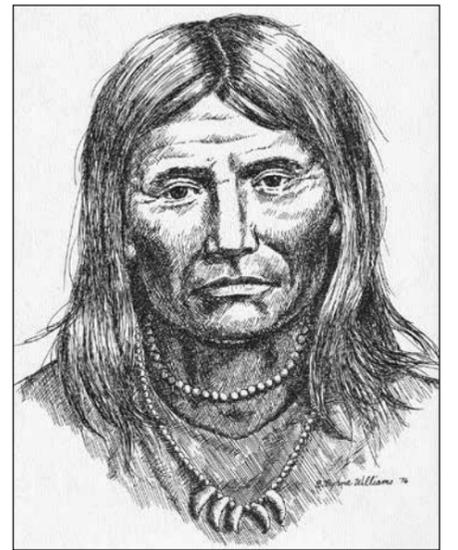
And we have some very special historical creations about history to share: In the 1970s, MBHS founder Evelyn Byrne Williams, well-known artist and owner of The Lamplighter Gallery in Jacksonville, created 15 pieces in different media interpreting iconic photos of historic Native Americans. Local collectors and history buffs can now own this marvelous artwork. Eleven- by 14-inch prints are only \$20, prints in 16- by 20-inch mattes are \$35, and we have a limited number in custom barnwood frames, made with love by a special volunteer and family member. Come see the collection on June 10!

Thank you for helping MBHS write the next chapter of social history in the Applegate Valley.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com



Portrait reportedly taken in 1864; photographer unknown. Set may have been erected outside.



Kintpuash aka "Captain Jack"
by E. Byrne Williams.

■ AVHS

Continued from page 3

a committee from Applegate attended the Southern Oregon Historical Society meeting and requested the building. That same committee became a society on April 27, 1989, so they could obtain the building.

Roar and Mary Kjaer and John Pernoll donated land to AVHS so the building could have a home back in Applegate. With the help of the Applegate Lions Club and Ben Watts, the building was moved from Jacksonville to its current location in Applegate on September 25, 1993.

With the help and support of our society and community during the intervening years, we opened our doors on May 10, 1997, with a show by Myrtle Krouse of personal artifacts from years gone by. Myrtle was the founder and benefactor of our society.

It saddens me and other AVHS members to think that this property and building could be taken away from the Applegate Valley community. A Greater Applegate (AGA) is helping where they can, be it getting the word out about us or helping with flyers. AGA's community survey found that folks in the Applegate Valley *want* a local museum. Hopefully folks will show their support. We would love to hear from you. Let's *all* pitch in and help the museum to continue its mission.

After meeting with the County Planning Department, we found we would have to jump through many hoops—plus the costs run high—if we were to move the

building. The county representative said, "You own the land; why move?"

Thus, we are focusing on enhancing what we already own. We have major landscaping, tree removal, and fence building to do on the property, among other projects. Watch for new signage. We continue to seek donations, and are active in the Jackson County Heritage Association.

Do you want to join AVHS? Yearly membership is \$25 for one person, \$40 for two, and \$50 for a family. Send name(s), address, and email to AVHS, 3120 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, OR 97530. In June we will be open on weekends. More help would mean more open days. We've been holding meetings at a private home for a long time, especially since COVID. We are now meeting at the museum on the first Monday of the month at 9 am. You can park across the highway on the store lot. Everyone is welcome.

We greatly appreciate your community support, whether you come in person, help financially, write support letters, or donate work time. We appreciate any support to this tiny museum here in Applegate.

Visit applegatehistoricalsociety.org for future information. While our website is under construction, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this community project. Together we can make it work!

Barbara Niedermeyer
Secretary-Treasurer
Applegate Valley Historical Society
bnkoalarkool@gmail.com



The team of A Greater Applegate, including departing executive director, Seth Kaplan (far right), and new co-executive director, Angelique Stewart (seventh from right).

AGA focusing on supporting working groups and community action teams

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

As we move from spring to summer here in the Applegate, we get to see seeds grow into plants, flowers bloom, bees wake up, and the river bustling with spring runoff—the whole world seems to come back to life. This theme is holding true for those of us working at A Greater Applegate (AGA) too. We are waking up to a new season as we wish our departing executive director, Seth Kaplan, a very happy retirement and our new co-executive director, Angelique Stewart, a hearty welcome to the team. We also welcome some great new community members onto our board. We invite you to learn more about, and support, all that we currently have going on!

One of AGA's primary roles is to support working groups and community action teams that are coming together to implement projects and strategies from the *Applegate Valley Vision*.

In keeping with this edition's theme of "Fire and Water," it feels timely to mention the Forest and Fire Working Group that has been meeting regularly for the past year. This is a multi-stakeholder group made up of organizations and agencies working in the forests of the Applegate Valley with the goal of promoting forest health, restoration, and fire resiliency on public and private land.

Among other things, this group is working on a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) project proposal with the NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) that would provide money for private land fuels reduction in the Applegate (see the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council article by Nathan Gehres on page 15). They are also looking at how to integrate local needs identified in the Applegate Community Wildfire Protection Plan into the larger Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan and planning a Fire Education and Preparedness Fair for 2024.

AGA is working with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and community members to host a Water Security Education event for June 17. This event will be the first of two—this one offering a number of presentations on water conservation and storage measures for household and residential landscapes. The second event, tentatively scheduled for the fall, will be a series of workshops

for local irrigators. (For more information, see the article by Jim Reiland on page 3.) We look forward to seeing what kind of conversation and action come from these educational events.

Water is vital to our agriculture in the Applegate, and so is having markets for all the amazing food that is grown here. A Greater Applegate continues to work with local farmers, ranchers, and food entrepreneurs to grow and sustain the three farmers markets that we have in the valley. By the time you read this, you will be able to visit the Williams Farmers Market on Mondays, the Applegate Evening Market in Ruch on Wednesdays, and the Murphy Farmers Market on Fridays to get fresh, locally produced fruits, vegetables, meat, honey, jams, treats, and so much more. We will also continue to run the Farm to Food Pantry program this summer by securing more funding from the Oregon Food Bank to buy local produce, meat, and eggs from our farmers to distribute at the food pantries in Ruch and Williams as a way to provide more healthy food for our lower-income families.

A Greater Applegate exists to build community and to increase our capacity to thrive. We do this through developing relationships and connections, helping people and groups gain the skills and resources they need, knowing where the community wants to go and taking action to get there, and working to increase a sense of unity, pride, and resilience in the Applegate—not only in regard to fire and water, but in many other ways as well. Please consider supporting this important work through a donation and/or by getting involved with a working group or by forming a community action team.

Oh, and when it isn't a month for reading the *Applegater*, tune into Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org) to keep up to date with some of the latest news, stories, events, and projects happening in the valley.

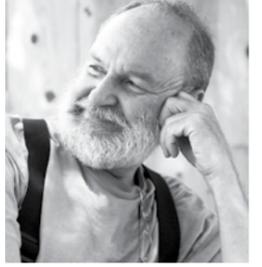
We look forward to learning more about you and how we can work together in the future.

Megan Fehrman
Co-Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
megan@agreaterapplegate.org

THE STARRY SIDE

Ruchbah explained

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

You may well ask, “What the \$%^! is Ruchbah?” We’ll get to that in a minute, but first, what’s going on in the summer sky?

Of course, there’s the Summer Triangle that I always talk about. It’s pretty obvious—three bright stars, each part of its own constellation: Deneb in Cygnus (the Swan), Vega in Lyra (the Harp), and Altair in Aquilla (the Eagle).

And I always mention the Milky Way. It looks like a milky sweep more or less though the middle of the galaxy we live in. Until the invention of the telescope, no one knew the Milky Way was made of stars—millions, billions, and we discover even more as the telescopes get better.

Our latest images are of stars that are light years away. (For perspective, a

light year is the distance light travels in a whole year! Our sun’s light gets to us in 12 seconds. A mere 93 million miles!)

That’s where we live! One of billions of stars and planets and other beautiful debris. But there’s huge space between us and all of them.

Every large star we see is in our own Milky Way Galaxy. The bigger and the faster-moving “stars” we see in our little solar system include planets and moons, stars, and flying debris.

The Andromeda Galaxy is the only galaxy visible to us outside our own. The others are incredibly spaced out around our whole universe and too far away to be seen without a telescope.

With each new, more powerful telescope, we find more galaxies—

bigger, farther away, and more numerous than we had imagined. Each time we think we’ve gotten to the end, there’s only more to see through the next telescope! The distances are almost beyond understanding, and certainly all out of plain eyesight. Which is why I personally enjoy just what we can see with our naked eyes in our wonderful night skies.

Ruchbah

Now, about the title of this piece. Well, I’ve known about the star named Ruchbah for a while, and I wanted to share it with you because it puts our little town of Ruch on the map of the sky—at least in a way.

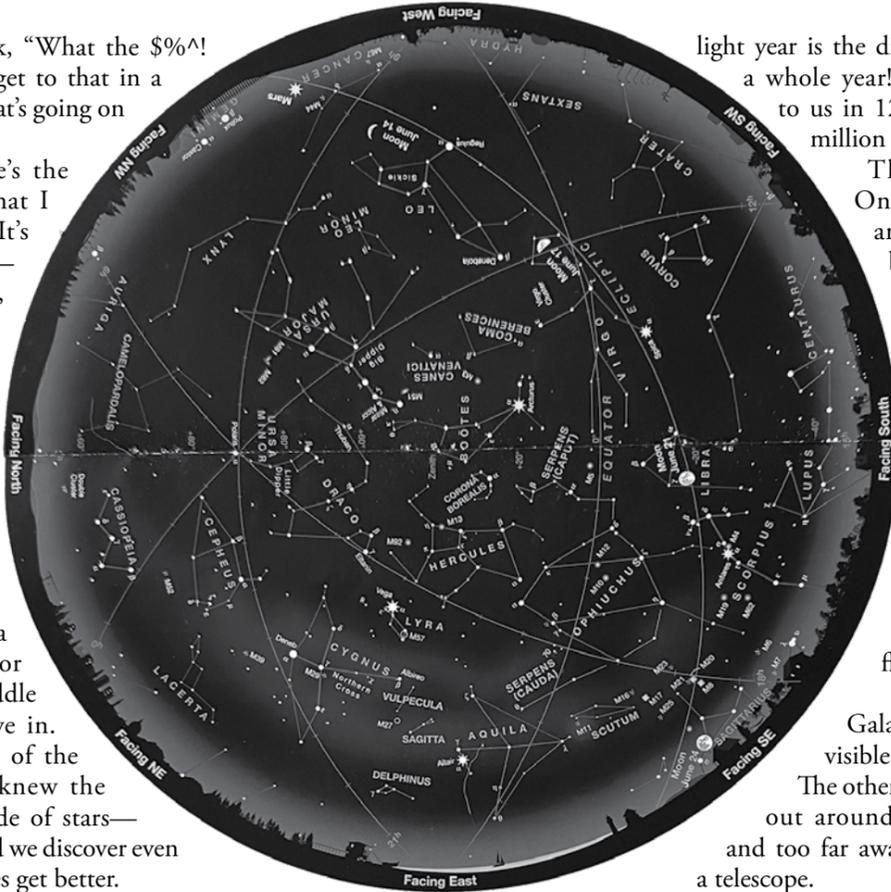
It’s spinning close around the North Star in the constellation Cassiopeia. In summer Cassiopeia’s W shape is easy to see below the North Star (if you don’t have a mountain in your way looking north). Ruchbah is the lower-left-hand star in the two V shapes that make up Cassiopeia’s W.

Fun? I love it!

Greeley Wells

greeley@greeley.me

Ed. Note: For more information about Ruchbah the star, visit star-facts.com/ruchbah.



Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

— OF NOTE —

Planets

Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, is visible at dusk in April (just after sunset) and at dawn in May and June (just before sunrise).

Venus, the second-closest planet to the sun, is much brighter than Mercury. Venus is visible in the evening all season.

Mars, which has been very bright recently, is now fading but still red.

Mars is also visible in the evening all season.

Jupiter set in April but is up again in the dawn for May and June. It’s a good bright planet.

Saturn is dimmer and up in the morning for this season too.

Meteors

Bootids, June 2-July 2. These are bright meteors with slow speed. The

peak is just six days after the solstice, our shortest night. After midnight, when the moon is low, will be the best time to watch.

Southern Delta Aquariids, July 12-August 23. These faint meteors with medium speed are a challenge to see. The peak is July 28 in the evening, and best after midnight. Look in the area southeast of bright Jupiter when the moon is less than half full.

Perseids, July 17-August 24. These are some of the best of meteor showers each year—fast with medium brightness. The peak is August 13 after midnight, but I’ve seen them continue for many nights, at all times of night, even with some moon. This year, there’ll be almost no moon at all till dawn.

Enjoy it all, if you’ve a mind to!
Greeley Wells

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Garden of clichés

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

I certainly do not have ten black thumbs, as they say. But indeed I do have ten dirty fingernails. Good grief, I'm a gardener. What did you expect? Furthermore, I have been in "nursery school"—that is what I call my garden—most of my life. I have learned so much from my teacher.

For starts, whether I like it or not, my garden insists on my being patient, but that's not exactly my innate inclination. I can't rush a redwood to hurry up and grow 150 feet, even if I am in a rush. Said Leo Tolstoy, "The two most powerful warriors are patience and time."

There are other pithy sayings—or clichés—I have learned from my garden.

"Be prepared." In my ever-giving Applegate garden, I am reminded of the old Boy Scout motto. Hmm, so if I want to plant tall pole beans, I need to be prepared to have something to support the tall fellows or they will be sprawling on the ground. So, my "being prepared" not only means I am prepared to physically support what I plant but also that I am prepared to tend, love, and nourish what I plant. I am the "mother" and these are my "children." My garden taught me if I take care of my "children" while they are young and growing, they will then feed and nourish me when I'm all grown up. You saw that coming, right? However much a cliché, it is true.

In "real" life we always talk about foundations. The foundation your parents give you for adulthood, the foundation of

your education for college, and, of course, the foundation of the house you live in. Gardening anywhere is no different in that it needs a good foundation for future success. If I have a crop failure—bugs, stunted growth, low production, or whatever else—due to my lack of planning ahead with a good foundation, trust me, the garden reminds me. A good foundation in your garden means friable (easily crumbled) soil teaming with earthworms, good drainage, and, of course, the right location. Ask a realtor about location, location, location.

"Don't judge a book by its cover." Check this out: corn smut (see photo). You might be put off by the looks of this fungus that forms galls on all above-ground parts of corn species. But it is edible! In Mexico it is known as a mouthwatering delicacy,



Edible corn smut (u.osu.edu/mastercorn/corn-smut).

called huitlacoche (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corn_smut). Another fungus that might surprise you is Cordyceps, a rare, hybrid, parasitic, "highbred" fungus (see photo) with several healing properties. It often attaches itself to caterpillars, which eventually eat the host.

"Variety is the spice of life." Not really referring to spicy as in "hot," per se, but rather having a variety of interests, friends, and, from your garden, the foods you grow. More to the point, if you plant just one variety of, say, lettuce, what happens if that particular variety is very susceptible to a

particular disease? Boom, all gone. No lettuce. If you had planted a few different varieties, you might have great dinner salad tonight. Right?

Friends or companions

The "three sisters" method is "used widely by Native American farming societies. Corn, pole beans, and squash are grown together for the mutual benefit of all three. Pole beans use the corn stalks as a means of support while stabilizing the corn and helping restore nitrogen to the soil for future crops. Squash keeps weeds down, shades the soil, and helps prevent moisture from evaporating from the surface" (swansonsnursery.com/blog).

Not a bad idea, since we all need companions and friends who will stand up and protect us. I certainly do, but it's not always that simple. Lesson learned: not all "friends" are really "friends." However, a truly compatible friend supports you, and you can become both strong and productive like the three sisters.

At my age, this is now my favorite quote: "I don't remember planting this."

Sioux Rogers

littlemuddyred@gmail.com

Cordyceps is a rare, hybrid, parasitic, "highbred" fungus with several healing properties (businessinsider.com).



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HAVE YOU SEEN COSMO?

Cosmo was a talking crow last seen on Dec. 18, 2021. He was considered a nuisance bird and may have been legally killed. There's no liability. No crime. Just hoping for closure. Any and all leads welcome. You can remain anonymous.

Email any tips to:
cosmocrowtips@gmail.com



Tree-planting day at Sequoia Sanctuary at Pacifica. Photo: Brent Kehoe, Grants Pass Vitality Center.

Off to a good start, the Sequoia Sanctuary needs your help

BY RICHARD REAMES

The Sequoia Sanctuary, a land art project at Pacifica Garden, in Williams, was planted in 30 minutes by over 60 enthusiastic volunteers on February 18. Currently, 113 young sequoia trees are stretching out their branches and roots to form the walls of a living cathedral. The event space occupies over 7,000 square feet of grass and young star thistle, and it is already being used by the community.

As you are well aware, we had a wet and cold spring, but sequoias thrive in those conditions. The first issue we had to deal with was horses stepping near the trees. After considering a fence, we realized the best and easiest solution was at hand in the form of a rock pile. About 100 years ago, when the site was being farmed, the farmer tossed the rocks into a pile that is very close to our sanctuary. So the job of placing rocks around our trees went like clockwork. The rock party was a lot of fun.

The evil invasive star thistle, the bane of ranchers and barefoot hippies alike, is attempting to take over and ruin the vibe. This inconvenient little demon of a plant needs to be rooted out and cast aside to dry out and die in the sun. So, if you visit, you may have an exciting opportunity to do a valiant and noble deed. Get 'em while they last!

The next big job is installing the drip system. Spit N Polish, a store that specializes in cool antiques, donated a half-horsepower pump that will feed a 700-foot drip line to keep our young trees happy and watered through the summer. Seeing that the trees get off to a good start has pretty much drained the donation fund.

This is where you come in. If you find this project worthy and are able to donate, please do. Your gift will support ongoing maintenance, the inevitable issues that arise, the all-abilities trail that will go to the center of the circle, and onsite educational information.

You can donate to the project through GoFundMe, PayPal, check, or whatever means you prefer. Visit the project page at arborsmith.com/sequoia-sanctuary.

If you are on Facebook, you can join the "Sequoia Sanctuary at Pacifica" support group for breaking news and work party announcements.

Thank you for your support and for helping to make the Sequoia Sanctuary a success.

Your tree-growing friend,
Richard Reames
richard@arborsmith.com

What's new on Applegate Valley Connect?

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Applegate Valley Connect is our valley's online resource for news, emergency information, business listings, a community event calendar and jobs and volunteer opportunities. Here's a summary of what you might have missed and what you have to look forward to when you visit applegateconnect.org.

What's been posted

To view these past stories, go to Applegate Connect and click on "News & Stories":

- An interview with Seth Kaplan: The former executive director of A Greater Applegate says, "The Applegate doesn't want to become anything else. It doesn't want to be Napa, or Sonoma, or Portland. It just wants to be the Applegate."
- Rock hound: Applegate jewelry-maker Ron Skog talks rocks, teaching... and whether there's still "gold in them thar hills."
- The Poetry of Planning: Max Gimbel, from the Ford Family Foundation, recently



Applegate jewelry maker Ron Skog. Photo: Christina Ammon.

visited the Ruch Library and led a free workshop titled "90-Day Action Planning in 90-Minutes."

What's coming up

The Applegate Paddling Club: This group has a goal to promote water safety and education, enhance Applegate paddling areas, and support active local paddling communities. Find out about their efforts to map the Applegate River's access points, hazards, and water levels.

Local Entrepreneurs: A Greater Applegate, with support from Business Oregon and Reinventing Rural, recently walked local entrepreneurs through the fundamentals of running a business and launched the Applegate Valley's first Co.Starters core program. We will hear from local community members who took part in the Applegate Valley's first Co.Starters Program.

Christina Ammon
christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com

PACIFICA NOTES

Community summer fun

BY PEG PRAG

Though Pacifica's main emphasis is education in a variety of forms, education always includes fun! So, this article lists some of Pacifica's summer fun. Watch our website (pacificagarden.org) and Facebook page for additional information and activities or call 541-846-1100.



Siskiyou Audubon Society members make bird houses with Pacifica summer campers.

Every day

(unless there's an event—check the website)

We're sorry that our insurance doesn't permit swimming in the ponds, but there are many other things to do.

Disc golf. Starting June 4, Pacifica's course will be set up in the front horse pastures. Parking will be in the first lot on the left, and hole one will parallel Water Gap Road. This area will provide disc golfers with a new and challenging object course that will have beginning and advanced targets on each hole. Moving the course will also allow access to play during special events, because the course now won't interfere with other Pacifica activities. Please check Pacifica's web page and information boards for information on upcoming work parties. Long-term goals for this course will include fundraising for baskets, benches, and tee signs. Please help make this switch to Pacifica Pastures Disc Golf Course a success.

Hiking and horseback. There are seven miles of trails through forest and meadow to walk or ride through while enjoying their serenity, birds, and wildflowers. There are maps and wildflower and butterfly identification sheets at the trailheads to drop off at trail's end.

Trail rides. Tess and Tara, experienced trail-ride leaders, are available to provide you with saddled horses and lead you on an enjoyable hour-plus ride along Pacifica's trails. They even include some history and natural history along the way. Contact them at applegatetrailrides.com or 541-660-6796.

Fishing. Catch-and-release fishing is always available free in Heron Pond.

Wednesdays

- June 21: Summer Solstice Nature Hike—birds, 10 am-noon; meet at the red door
- June 28: Music under the Stars, 8-10 pm
- July 5: Movie under the Stars, 8-10 pm
- July 12: Creek walk and water exploration, 1-3 pm; meet at the red door
- July 26: Nature Hike—butterflies and insects, 10 am-noon; Music under the Stars, 8-10 pm
- August 2: Movie under the Stars, 8-10 pm
- August 9: Family Picnic, ice cream social and Challenge Course fun, 9 am-1 pm.
- August 23: Nature Hike—plants, 10 am-noon; Music under the Stars, 8-10 pm

- August 30: Movie under the Stars, 8-10 pm

Festivals

June 4, Festival in the Forest. A celebration of local talent along the Art Nature Trail (ANT). Along with local sculptures and kids' art activities, there will be musicians playing violin, harp, and flute, plus others performing along the trail. There will also be creation of a fairy village. Come for a picnic. Food available. 11 am and 2 pm.

July 14-16, Celebrating the Siskiyou Crest: A Festival of Arts, Culture, and Science. Art, poetry, hikes, speakers, vendors. July 14: Guided hikes and field trips; July 15-16: Keynote speakers and panels discussing the amazing place we call our backyard, what the National Wildlife Federation has designated as "one of the Earth's most extraordinary expressions of temperate biodiversity." (For more information, see article by Diana Coogole on page 16.)

October 27-29, Harvest Fair. A celebration of the harvest with live music, vendors, and yummy harvest food.

Camps

- Earthwise Forest School Summer, June 19-23
- Earthwise Forest School Summer, June 26-30
- Nature Immersion Camp, June 19-23
- Nature Immersion Camp, June 26-30
- Wilderness Skills, July 3-7
- Creative Engineering, Fun Discovery, July 24-28
- Bookmaking camp, July 31-August 4
- Sewing Camp, August 7-11

(Check website and Facebook for updates.)

Volunteer days

Pacifica's monthly volunteer days—which are fun, as well!—happen on the first Sunday of each summer month: June 4, July 2, and August 6. We will be working on the Natural Playground, on kestrel and owl boxes, on better signs, more benches, and anything else you'd like to suggest.

Have a great summer, but *always be careful*: no fires, watch where you park and when and where you run equipment. Thank you.

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org


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Double Up Food Bucks help low-income Oregonians access fresh produce and supports local farmers

BY BETH PORTESI

Accessing fresh fruits and vegetables can be challenging for low-income individuals and families in Oregon, but the Double Up Food Bucks program is making it easier. This program matches the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits spent at participating farmers markets. For every \$2 of SNAP benefits spent at the market, you'll receive a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$20 in Double Up that you can use to purchase additional fruits and vegetables. For example, if you spend \$20 in SNAP benefits, you'll receive an extra \$20 to purchase more produce.

If you're looking to support local farmers and businesses while accessing the Double Up Food Bucks program, the Applegate Evening Market on Wednesdays and the Williams Market on Mondays are great options. The Applegate Evening Market is an up-and-coming market that offers products that are grown or made locally and encourages vendors to practice organic farming methods. The Williams Market has been a staple in the community for over 15 years and offers a variety of fresh, locally grown produce and handmade goods from local vendors.

If you're struggling to put food on the table, you may be eligible for SNAP benefits. Benefits are issued on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, also called an Oregon Trail Card, which can be used like a debit card to buy food anywhere EBT is accepted. To see if you may be eligible for SNAP, you can contact 211info or the Oregon ADRC if you are a senior or living with disabilities. College students who attend school at least half-time may also be eligible by meeting income guidelines and additional criteria.

The Double Up Food Bucks program is a crucial resource for low-income



individuals and families to access fresh, locally grown produce at participating local farmers markets. The Applegate Evening Market and Williams Market are great places to access the program and support local agriculture. Don't let hunger be a barrier to your well-being. Apply for SNAP benefits today and get the assistance you need to put food on the table. If you have any questions, contact one of these agencies:

- **Double Up Food Bucks:** doubleuporegon.org
- **SNAP Benefits:** 211info.org. You can reach the 211info team from Monday to Friday by text, email, online, or through the mobile app. Text and email are available in English and Spanish. Text your zip code to 898211 (TXT211) between 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday. Email help@211info.org; responses come within 24 hours. Download the 211info app from the Apple App Store or the Android version from the Google Play Store.
- **Oregon Department of Human Services:** oregon.gov/dhs/Pages/index.aspx
- **Aging & Disability Resource Connection:** adrcforegon.org/consumersite

Beth Portesi
beth@lazyacresfarm.org

Farmers market season is here!

BY ALISON HENSLEY SEXAUER

Farmers Market season has arrived, and there are a couple of exciting additions that will make our local markets better than ever. By supporting these markets, we are investing in our local economy, connecting with our neighbors, reducing our environmental impact, and creating a more resilient and robust local food system.

Turnout at the markets has been good, but customers have expressed the need for more produce availability, while the 2022 vendor survey showed that individually staffing booths at small markets can be economically unviable for small farms.

New community agriculture booth

To address this issue, both the Williams Market and the Applegate Evening Market at the new location are offering a "Community Agriculture" booth. This option gives busy farmers a new market and collective marketing power and increases the number of local farms represented at markets.

SNAP accepted

Another great addition to our markets this year is the ability to accept SNAP and give out Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb). The ability to use SNAP benefits at farmers' markets not only increases access to fresh, locally grown foods for low-income residents, but also supports small farmers and the local economy. The DUFb program doubles the value of SNAP dollars spent on fruits and vegetables, stretching limited resources and increasing the purchasing power of families in need.

This program also helps to reduce food waste, since farmers can sell more of their produce directly to consumers, and it provides an opportunity for farmers to connect with a wider audience, potentially increasing their customer base. Both Williams Farmers Market and Applegate Evening Market are accepting SNAP and DUFb at this time, and the Murphy Market is working toward being able to accept them by next year.

So skip a trip to town and enjoy the seasonality and the tastes of the Applegate. See you at the market!

Alison Hensley Sexauer
alison@rvfoodsystem.org

Local markets

Applegate Evening Market

5-8 pm • Wednesdays • May 31-July 26 • 4-7 pm in September. 8555 Highway 238, Jacksonville, OR 97530; applegateeveningmarket.com.

Applegate Evening Market is a fun, weekly event to bring farmers and our community together. Join us Wednesday evenings May, June, July, and September for an outdoor market at LongSword Vineyard in Ruch. Purchase directly from local farms, wineries, artisans, crafters, and food trucks, while enjoying live music amid the beautiful backdrop of the Applegate Valley. Family friendly!

Murphy's Outdoor Market

9 am-1 pm • Fridays • April-September. 6890 Williams Highway, Murphy, OR 97527; murphysoutdoormarket.com; 541-862-2244; murphysoutdoormarket@gmail.com; [facebook.com/MurphysOutdoorMarket](https://www.facebook.com/MurphysOutdoorMarket); [instagram.com/murphysoutdoormarket](https://www.instagram.com/murphysoutdoormarket).

Murphy's Outdoor Market is from 9 am-1 pm every Friday during the growing season near Hidden Valley Market. You'll find a variety of local goods, from produce and flowers to fresh-baked goods, local beef and chicken, to elderberry syrups and soaps. Pick up some organic freeze-dried fruits, herbal tinctures, fresh organic coffee, handmade arts, and more! Visit the food trucks and enjoy the grassy area for kids to play. Leashed dogs welcome!

Williams Farmers Market

4-6:30 pm • Mondays • May-October. Sugarloaf Community Association, 206 Tetherow Road, Williams, OR 97544; [facebook.com/Williams-Farmers-Market](https://www.facebook.com/Williams-Farmers-Market); williamsfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

This sweet market is set in a shaded, five-acre property with playgrounds and sprinklers in the summer. It features organic produce, crafts, kombucha, plant starts, floral bouquets, handmade clothing, herbal products, wines, organic meats, snacks, music, fun free classes, and more.

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

Seeking a new host plant: Chalcedona checkerspot revisited

BY LINDA KAPPEN



Linda Kappen

The depths of this story are quite scientific and complicated so I will try to keep it simple for others interested, myself included.

The spring of 2022 brought a long-lasting bloom of *Pedicularis densiflora*—warrior’s plume—to southern Oregon. Many photos circulated on social media and the internet, where a comment was made that warrior’s plume was host plant to three checkerspot butterflies.

I felt that this wasn’t true locally and started to investigate by sending photos to five experts in the Pacific Northwest. I was informed there were no records of this host plant usage in the northwest until now. The source of information had come from Calflora, a native plant database for California.

The three species of *Euphydryas* checkerspot were subspecies that do not occur in our immediate area. Two were species of Edith’s checkerspot and the Anicia checkerspot, all in the genus *Euphydryas*. Early research dating from the 1970s to the present, in California locations near the San Francisco area, about 500 miles from here, had been studied, resulting in some findings that the three butterfly species used pedicularis species post diapause in locations where the regular host plant had become senesced or lessened by wildfire or logging practices. The areas studied are quite a distance from southern Oregon, showing that the use of



Clockwise from top photo: *Chalcedona* checkerspot, a chrysalis on fir tree base, and caterpillars on warrior’s plume.

this plant in Applegate is a newly recorded use as a larval host plant by a checkerspot in the northwest.

The *Chalcedona* checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*) larvae enter

diapause in early larval stages until spring, when they emerge and begin feeding on available host plants. If their host plant is not present, the choice then is to use a favorable plant nearby.

I began to check daily on the warrior’s plume at our home in Applegate. To my surprise I found caterpillars on the plant and believed them to be the *Chalcedona* checkerspot. I gathered some and reared about ten checkerspot larvae to adults using the warrior’s plume for feeding. I offered snowberry, too, which the snowberry Checkerspot uses as a host plant, but these larvae refused to use it.

The local timing and location of the butterflies led me to believe this was *Chalcedona*. The adults I reared are prepared and awaiting further

observation for entomologists at Oregon State University Arthropod Collection (OSAC) for positive identification when we meet this fall.

A final note about *Pedicularis densiflora*. It is in the plant family Orobanchaceae. It is a hemiparasite on members of the heath family of plants. If you are in some of our lower elevations and have madrone and manzanita growing in your forest, you may have warrior’s plume. It has a disjunct population throughout southern Oregon. It holds medicinal properties as well and is a beauty to observe in the spring. Please do not disturb this plant’s growth by digging it.

For more information on the *Chalcedona* checkerspot butterfly, see the fall 2020 *Applegater* or get your hands on the book *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest*, by Robert Michael Pyle and Caitlin C. La Bar.

Update. During Earth Day weekend, 2023, the warrior’s plume at my home was finally up, and the process begins again to find post diapause caterpillars on the warrior’s plume. A second run at this is a good scientific experiment!

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Linda Kappen is a southern Oregon naturalist specializing in lepidoptera.

All photos by Linda Kappen.



RIVERCRESTRANCH.COM



Hikers enjoyed the Spring Wildflower Walk in the Jacksonville Woodlands, led by Larry and Linda Smith.

Celebrate diversity at the Village of Ascension's Cultural Unity Fest

BY TAMAURA MURPHY

Come one, come all to Merete's Cove for the Village of Ascension's Cultural Unity Fest on Sunday, June 11, noon-7 pm.

Merete's Cove, formerly the Wayside Park and renamed in honor of owner Keith Wetlesen's late mother, is at the convergence of Thompson Creek and the mighty Applegate River. Join us there to take in the gorgeous views and to network together and work on pooling our skills and hand-manifested goods to usher in a much-needed resource-based economy! Stay for the stellar entertainment!



A-Rae of Light Dance instructors, Aimee Dietrich (right) and Kala Jade Mulvey.

Keith has graciously offered this utopia, with its perfectly poised swimming area, to the Village of Ascension for this festival. It is in a convenient space next to Applegate Store and Cafe, adjacent to the iconic Applegate Bridge. He will have life jackets for the little ones, which they must wear.

The second Sunday in June (June 11, this year) is a universal holiday known worldwide as Race Unity Day.

The festival will provide many things for you to learn about, such as regenerative farming techniques, aquaculture methods, and hempcrete versus concrete (what's the big difference?). Children's projects will include puppet shows and puppet-making. Workshops include one on medicinal incense rolling and another on tie-dyeing. (Bring your own natural fibers—wool, silk, rayon, cotton, hemp, bamboo—in order to participate.)

We will have some awe-inspiring entertainment, such as the soulful sounds of the Four Winds Quartet by the Williams World Choir. These four singers started as an offshoot of Williams World Music Choir in 2016, under the instruction of Harmony, a professional voice trainer who brings sounds from all over the earth. Apocalipstick, featuring rockin' tunes about oneness and beautiful themes you will love, will be joined by Huck Reason, self-taught on his 12-string guitar.

There'll be African dance and singing and Native American music—flutes and more! Zombrie Plowboy + J. Bartolero, a Texas duo made up of Southern Oregon Songwriters Association (SOSA) members Katy and Tom Noyse, will rock you with country tunes and rock-a-billy their way into your hearts!

Two other not-to-be-missed shows are (1) Ballet Ritmo Alegre Folklorio, a Latina

ballet with an incredible visual and sound medley featuring breathtaking traditional costumes of Latina women and melodic rhythms—a treat for all ages, and (2) A-Rae of Light Dance Studio's 45-child dance troupe formed three years ago by a visionary dance instructor named Aimee Dietrich, who had a vision to give local children something other than electronics to focus on during the pandemic and began teaching at Pacifica Garden, in Williams. Joined by Aimee's assistant instructor, Kala Jade Mulvey, these young people will leave you breathless with their renditions of hip-hop, modern dance, and tap.

And then, just when you thought you'd seen it all, here comes the Migrant Worker Crew with original music to make you wanna rock it, Ras David's reggae music, and Native American drumming by Freaq.

We'll have 30 booths featuring local crafters with hand-created items, food creators, health practitioners, entrepreneurs, plants, natural health products, and other products to help build a resource-based local economy. A Jewish kibbutz speaker will highlight the key to an intentional community. Learn how it works: everybody can do something. To top it all off, we'll have baked goods from Guam.

Come for the networking—stay for the fun! Join the Village of Ascension for the Cultural Unity Fest on Sunday, June 11. Bring your friends and loved ones! A two-dollar bartering day pass gets each patron a free raffle ticket to win gifts and services!

Tamaura Murphy
handdesignedcommerce@gmail.com
Village of Ascension is a volunteer group striving to solve social problems.

Jacksonville Community Center activities for adults and children

BY SUE MILER

Since opening in 2019, the Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) has been sponsoring a variety of wellness and enrichment activities open to residents of our entire area, including the Applegate Valley, Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Rogue River, and other communities in the valley. The JCC serves both adults and children of all ages.

Among the JCC programs are wellness classes, intended to promote healthy activity and social connections. The weekly classes include Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Zumba Gold, and Yoga. Aspiring writers can attend a session of Shut Up and Write, which provides quiet time for writing in all genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and memoir.

JCC also has a range of one-time sessions covering local and natural history, issues in successful aging, making beautiful crafts, cooking, technology skills, and travel. A recent April session featured an outdoor wildflower walk in the Jacksonville Woodlands.

Programs scheduled for June and July include a Nature Art Party held in a local park, where kids (accompanied by a parent or grandparent) can create beautiful art forms from items gathered from nature. The presenter for a session called "A World without Polio: Odyssey to India" is a Jacksonville resident who, as a retired doctor, accompanied a Rotary service group to immunize children in India and then visited some of the important cultural sights there. In late July, we will have a fascinating program about Robbie Collins, who led the effort to get Jacksonville designated a National Historic



Nature art party examples by Heidi Elliott, program leader.

Landmark, helping to ensure that over 100 commercial and residential buildings in town were preserved.

We have recently received grant funding to hire a Youth Program Coordinator, who is organizing daytime kids' camps this summer, including one for performing arts and another for nature exploration and journaling. We will also have parent/child walks in the woods in July and August. A parent advisory committee is helping to plan activities for the school year.

Online registration for JCC activities is highly recommended and, in some instances, required. For those needing help or having technical issues with the registration process, call JCC at 541-702-2585 and leave a voicemail. For more details about JCC programs, including dates and times, as well as the most current schedule of activities, visit the JCC website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org.

Sue Miler • 301-452-4440
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with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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Fuels reduction in the Applegate Valley

BY NATHAN GEHRES

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has a long history addressing issues related to wildfires, having developed the first fire plan in the nation in 2002. Recently, APWC has partnered with several organizations, contractors, and landowners on projects that work to reduce the fuels that feed wildland fires. One such successful effort has been the Prescription for Safety Project, developed and led by the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC). This project focused on evacuation routes for private landowners by treating (cutting and piling) fuels within 150-foot buffers on private lands. The buffer will also allow better access to firefighting equipment and enhance the ability of the road to serve as a defensible line during holding actions or other firefighting activities. Another fuels reduction project, which you may have noticed if you travel Highway 238 through Provolt, is funded through a grant from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and has removed over 20 acres of blackberries along the highway and nearby structures, while also treating dozens of acres of brush and standing dead trees in a neighboring woodland. Tommy Maddox, 4M Timber, is our project contractor. He and his crew have been diligently toiling away to get the work completed before the grant closes in June.

Wildfire has been a constant concern for the residents of southern Oregon, but the threat of an unusually destructive conflagration has increased dramatically as our region changes and continues to experience drought. A variety of different factors have contributed to this escalation.



Aaron, a local sawyer, surveying the dead trees and brush he has just cut, in Provolt.

Decades of fire suppression have resulted in the buildup of brush and other fuels. Dead trees proliferate in our forests due to drought, insects, and disease. Max Bennett, a forester at the Oregon State University Extension Service, has documented that southwest Oregon has the highest concentration of Douglas fir mortality in the state. This extensive die-off of fir trees not only has a negative effect on the ecology of local forests, but also contributes dry fuels to a region that is progressively more vulnerable to destructive fire events. Two other elements that heighten the danger of catastrophic wildfire are population growth and the increasing number of homes in the wildland urban interface (WUI), the area where the wilderness meets human habitation. In 2018, the Miller Complex (17 miles east of Cave Junction) burned 38,000 acres, and in 2020, the Almeda and Obenchain Fires burned 36,000 acres. Oregon's wildfire season is now 78 days longer than it was just 30 years ago, and we need to prepare for this new reality.

Rewild yourself How do we become 'People of Place'?

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

If forest restoration was an engineering problem, Tomi Hazel Vaarde's new book could have been titled, *Three Ways to Heal the Land: Salmon, Beaver, Fire*. It might have made for a breezier read, but it wouldn't have honored the breadth and depth of the task. Instead, Hazel's 512-page opus is titled *Social Forestry: Tending the Land as People of Place* (synergeticpress.com). While the book *does* include plenty of practical advice, it does so in the context of something decidedly unstraightforward: Reconnecting people to place. This "rewilding" is at the heart of Social Forestry.

At a time when it seems like the best we can do for nature is leave it alone, Hazel's book urges the opposite. "The forests, woodlands, prairies, brush fields, stream sides, and ridgelines miss us," Hazel writes.

Human disturbances can be good—essential, even—so long as they are ecologically appropriate, balanced, and reciprocal. Well-timed coppicing (cutting) enhances biodiversity while supplying construction material for baskets, fences, and homes. Same goes for intentional burning: It reduces the risk of catastrophic fire while producing charcoal and enriching the soil.

The book includes plenty of "small-scale advice," but Hazel cautions that Social Forestry does not translate well into tips. That's the reason behind this trove of prose, posters, and poems that draw on a lifetime of learning—first, as a Quaker child set loose in the woods near the Adirondacks, then as a student of forestry and botany, and later as an environmental

educator at colleges and institutes. The book is also a gathering of Indigenous wisdom gleaned from her world travels.

Good Social Forestry is site-specific, collaborative, and responsive to the landscape's feedback. "Let the land guide us," Hazel writes.

Listening to the land

Hazel lives at Wolf Gulch, an oak savannah woodland in the Applegate Valley. Each winter, students arrive for a week of Social Forestry experience, pursuing a deeply local curriculum of forest bathing, trail-making, ceremonies, basket-weaving, and, if the conditions are right, fuel-burning. The activities are carried out with hand tools according to the needs of the land that Hazel has spent two decades observing. Students leave the course with an expanded sense of connection with the woodlands, each other, and their inner selves.

In her two decades observing the Applegate, Hazel has concluded that the return of beaver, salmon, and fire is essential to restoring watershed health. She acknowledges that the urban-wildland interface of the valley has been "hammered" by decades of mining, logging, and sometimes poor farming practices, but there have been compensating factors too. The nonprofit networks set up in the '70s have helped, and the valley's complex topography has had a protective effect. The Applegate is made up of numerous creeks, gulches, and watersheds with finicky ecologies that don't respond well to industrial-scale business ventures and are better suited to responses by community

Decreasing the threat of uncharacteristically severe fires is a complex task that requires coordination and cooperation on a large scale, not to mention the considerable resources needed to tackle such a thorny issue. Adding to the difficulty of the problem, the Applegate Valley is a patchwork of ownerships, with approximately 70 percent of the land managed by federal agencies, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS). APWC is leading an effort to develop a project, funded by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), to treat fuels on private lands in the upper and middle Applegate, building on the success of previous state, local, and federal investments in neighboring fuel reduction projects. Restoration and fuel reduction activities would include tree thinning followed by slash treatments, potentially utilizing one or a combination of methods such as hand piling and burning, chipping, biomass utilization, or prescribed underburning. These activities would provide work for local contractors and off-season wildland firefighters. Aside from the important goal of reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildfire, the proposed project is also designed to (1) create conditions on the ground that will enable landowners to manage the fuel accumulation on their properties, (2) promote sustainable local jobs in this rural region where economic drivers are limited, and (3) increase the resiliency of local forests to drought, insects, disease, and a changing climate.

Contact me if you have any questions about fuels reduction in the Applegate or any other projects we are working on.

Nathan Gehres • 541-890-9989

APWC Habitat Restoration

Project Manager

nathan@apwc.info

hubs and cooperatives. Hazel is supportive of the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council but feels even it is too broad an

effort for the "wild mosaic of complexity" that defines the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains. Ideally, there would be dozens of councils, each tending to its own drainage basin as site specifically as possible. "This is a multigenerational project," she writes.

Is Hazel optimistic or pessimistic about the future? "Curious," she says.

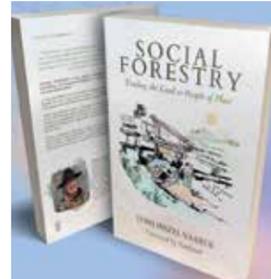
Regaining fluency

If you're looking for a treatise of solutions, *Social Forestry* isn't it. It is a circuitous read, with a preface called "How to Read Hazel," by Megan Fehrman. Referring to the author as a "trickster auntie," she writes, "Reading Hazel is much like having a conversation with Hazel. A long, sometimes rambling, conversation that goes on for hours. Days. Years. But don't worry, it all comes back around and begins to make sense."

It does make sense. After all, traditional ecological knowledge has normally been passed through riddles, songs, storytelling, and chants. While these more indigenous mediums may frustrate our modern, narrative-driven minds, Hazel is confident that even the most displaced among us will catch on—it's just a matter of regaining our lost fluency. So, if you're reading the book and this trickster auntie seems to be getting lost in the narrative weeds, hang tight. She's actually breaking trail.

Christina Ammon

christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com



Author David Rains Wallace is keynote speaker at the Siskiyou Crest Festival

BY DIANA COOGLE

Come celebrate the wildlands of the Siskiyou Crest with the Siskiyou Crest Coalition at Pacifica Garden, in Williams. "Celebrating the Siskiyou Crest: A Festival of Arts, Culture, and Science" will be held on July 15 and 16, with a set of hikes and field trips on July 14.

This free festival begins at 10 am each day and runs till 10 pm on Saturday and 8:30 pm on Sunday. (Friday field trip schedules differ. See siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival.)

As a "festival of art," we will have a juried art exhibit, with arts of all disciplines, including visual, sculptural, and textile arts as well as short performances of music, dance, video, and poetry, also juried. Each piece of art will take as its subject the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest, showing off its beauty and proving its inspirational quality. Among artists showing are Paula Fong, painter; Kevin Peer, videographer; Nancy Adams, ceramicist; Louann

Faist, tapestry weaver; and Mary Driver, mosaicist. Photography by Matt Witt. Poetry by Pepper Trail. A sculpture by Ela Lamblin. These and many more works of art depicting the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest will be on display and in performance for the two days of the festival.

Another part of the "festival of art" is our featured musicians: Alice DiMichele, Windsong, and the Pozitronics.

As a "festival of culture," we are honored to have, as an afternoon speaker, Joseph Scott, a member of the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and recognized by the Siletz Tribe as a Language and Culture Bearer; and, presenting an opening prayer in her native language, Dr. Jaeci Nel Hall, of the Tututni people.

As a "festival of science" (and of culture), we are thrilled to have David Rains Wallace, author of *The Klamath Knot*, as our keynote speaker on Sunday.

The Klamath Knot is a beautifully crafted book about the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains that draws on mythology and archeology as well as on biology and geology and has become a well-known classic of the area. *The Klamath Knot* won the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing and was the first book to bring the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains to the attention of the general public.

Superbloom at Bolan Mountain, August 2022.
Photo: Margaret della Santina.



Among mules ears in Donomore Meadows.
Photo: Suzie Savoie.

Michael Kauffmann, author of *Conifer Country*, and Justin Garwood, his coauthor of *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*, along with local naturalist Luke Ruediger, author of *The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History, & Ecology*, will share the podium on Saturday.

A key aspect of the "festival of science" will be the six panels of eminent scientists and others knowledgeable about the history and culture of the Siskiyou Crest. The two panels on the first day will cover the extraordinary botany of the Siskiyou Crest (the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains are the second most botanically diverse area in the United States) and its wildlife. Joe Scott will take the third panel slot on that day. The second day's panels will cover threats, biodiversity, and recreation.

Don't miss one of the guided hikes or field trips on July 14: into the serpentine area of Red Mountain with Rachel Werling, chasing butterflies at Bigelow Lakes with Linda Kappen and Dana Ross, finding birds near Oregon Caves with Romain Cooper and Bill Gray or on Mt. Ashland with Frank Lospalluto, exploring the Hinkle Lake Botanical Area with Matt Dybala, taking a plant walk with Kristi Mergenthaler on Observation

Peak, hiking in the Red Buttes Wilderness Area with Luke Ruediger and Suzie Savoie, climbing up Mt. Elijah with Janeen Sathre, or snorkeling for coho salmon with Rich Nawa. Linda Kappen will also lead a butterfly hike at 10 am on July 15, at Pacifica. Go to siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival and click on "hikes" for an Eventbrite invitation. Sign-up is required.

Pacifica and the Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley will provide children's activities on Saturday and Sunday. There will be food trucks for lunch, dinner, snacks, and drinks; and tables of information from nonprofit organizations. And, of course, you can find out more about the Siskiyou Crest Coalition and its work to find permanent protections for public lands on the Crest.

The Siskiyou Crest Coalition would like to thank our generous donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors for helping bring the dream of the festival to reality.

Make plans to be there! Go to siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival for full details. Or contact me with questions or to join the fun by volunteering to help.

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Solada is here to serve our community

BY HAYRIYA HEIDI HANSEN

One thing is for sure: we are all going to die! Most of us don't know when this is going to happen. In keeping with this issue's theme, death can feel like a raging fire—frightening, unstoppable, all-consuming, and affecting everyone in the dying person's orbit. It seems like extinguishing rain when the dying one feels heard, seen, acknowledged, and helped. Water is calming, cooling, and helps to mitigate the fire. Knowing where to find the resources to assist a loved one who is dying can serve as a cooling balm at an often intense, painful time.

Solada, the Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance, is a community ally for the living who want process grief, discuss death fears or thoughts, learn about death and dying practices, and so much more. Solada is building a resource directory of information and services provided by folks in our area. At the time you or a loved one is dying, the last thing you need is all the stress that comes from wondering who can provide emotional or physical help, legal information, caregiving or doula aide, pet walking, meal prep, etc. There is already so much to do at a time when you need to just be with your loved one. We are working hard to give our community the support needed before, during, and after death by providing resources and conversation.

To achieve part of our mission, Solada offers classes, workshops, and meet-ups for the public. Past classes included Writing and Collage: A Grief Workshop with Laurie Easter and Karen O'Brien; Complicated Death: Suicide, Homicide, Infant and

Missing Persons, with Tressi Albee; Doing Your Advance Directive, with Joanne Kliejunas; Advanced Death Planning with Angela Franklin; multiple Death Cafes, and many other classes and workshops. We offer classes in Grants Pass at the Grants Pass Museum of Art, True Juice, and the library; in Williams at the Grange and at Pacifica; in Provolt at Dorothy Gales, on Williams Highway near Highway 238; in the Applegate at Applegate Library; and in other locations throughout Josephine and Jackson counties.

In June, Solada will offer two workshops at Dorothy Gales. On June 11, 3:30-5:30 pm, Karmykal Jensen, a green funeral consultant and former funeral director, will present "Navigating the Commercial Funeral Home Experience." The next weekend a workshop, "When the Last Leaf Falls: Home Funerals and Fare-Thee-Well Ceremonies," will be presented by Angela Franklin, a death midwife and home funeral guide from Journey Home. Please check our website at solada.org for more information.

Additionally on June 27, we will offer a Death Cafe at True Juice in Grants Pass, on 124 NW D Street from 4:30-6:30 pm. (This is an ongoing event on the last Tuesday of every month, same time and location.) Solada hosts a Death Doula Meet-Up once a month. This open group is for people caring for a loved one, desiring to become a death doula, or interested in discussing how to support those dying. This group has been meeting for a few months and is in the process of

See SOLADA, page 22.

••• BIZBITS •••

The Restaurant at the Jacksonville Inn. By the time you read this you might have been lucky enough to experience the new restaurant at the Jacksonville Inn, which expected to open its doors in May. Todd Meyerhofer and his fiancée, Miriam Barchi, of the popular Decant restaurant in Medford, have stepped in to restore the beloved institution and bring new energy into the historic space. Between the two of them are decades of impressive culinary and hospitality experience.

Kudos go to James Soule, of the TouVelle House, for bringing the restaurant space to Todd's and Miriam's attention. Before James and his partner, Kristin Bria, became innkeepers, James was a food and beverage consultant in the Napa Valley, where Miriam and Todd were both working at the esteemed Auberge du Soleil. Fast forward to a table at the newly opened Decant. "I'm sitting there enjoying my meal when I hear a familiar laugh," said James. "I'm looking around the room and there she is, Miriam Barchi!" He laughed. "I had no idea that she and Todd had moved here—it was a nice surprise. So when I saw the Facebook post regarding the vacancy of the restaurant space, I had to call Todd." And a partnership and mission ensued.

James is the behind-the-scenes guy, orchestrating the investment side and helping get the ball rolling. Miriam takes care of front-house management, a position that has been in her blood since childhood, when she helped her parents in their Michelin-starred restaurant in Italy. Todd is the magic in the kitchen. Todd's stepdaughters, Jessica Colburn Cahill and Irina Colburn, a talented chef in her own right, are taking over Decant.

"Our goal is to take advantage of the great local meat and produce this area provides," Todd says. "We're not looking to make it a pretentious environment. More like upscale casual with a menu geared toward European comfort food." Todd and Miriam gave the previous staff the option of coming back, so you may see some familiar faces when you dine there.

Todd's culinary background is as extensive as it is impressive—from teaching to running five-star kitchens. But go and experience his talents for yourself. As the saying goes, the proof is in the pudding.

Welcome to the neighborhood, Todd and Miriam.

175 East California Street, Jacksonville • info@therestaurantjvilleinn.com • therestaurantjville.com

•••

Rogue Valley Farm Tour. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2023 Rogue Valley Farm Tour on July 16, 10 am-3 pm. This summer's tour includes 26 farms in Josephine and Jackson counties, many offering an array of classes from vegetable and flower growing to raising livestock. Visit Rogue Creamery, Hanley Farms, Rise Up! Bakery, Herb Pharm, and Oshala, to name a few. Plan your journey with the user-friendly website, roguevalleyfarmtour.com, that lists the farms by region. Or better yet, volunteer! Happy exploring!

Jennifer Peterson
jennifer@applegater.org

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For more information, visit:

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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

National forest policy, the Late Mungers Project, and Medford District BLM

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

A year ago, on Earth Day 2022, President Biden signed an executive order directing federal agencies to promote the protection of mature and old-growth forests on public lands as a natural climate solution. One year later, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) have released federal guidance that proposes to increase the protection of federal lands for the purpose of conservation and climate mitigation.

The proposed federal rulemaking would for the first time bring BLM into the modern era by putting conservation “on equal footing” with extractive uses like mining, grazing, logging, and oil drilling. The proposed rulemaking also promotes “protecting important natural, cultural, and scenic resources” and the protection of “intact, native landscapes.” Additionally, the BLM and USFS have proposed to manage for climate resilience throughout our federal lands.

To inform this new direction, the agencies also released an inventory and detailed definitions for mature and old-growth forests. The inventory identified over 32 million acres of old-growth forests nationwide (including Alaska), accounting for 18 percent of all forested BLM and USFS lands. It also identified 80 million acres of mature forests, constituting 45 percent of all public forest lands. These forests and the proposed federal rulemaking represent a massive conservation and climate

mitigation opportunity, yet the agency has failed to propose the necessary protections for these forests and to end old-forest logging on public lands.

Important for the habitat, clean water, and climate refugia that they provide, these forests are also important for the carbon stored in large living trees, snags, downed trees, and forest soils. For example, research in the dry forests of eastern Oregon shows that large-diameter trees (over 21 inches in diameter) constitute only three percent of the trees in these forests, but they store 42 percent of the total above-ground carbon. Additionally, the coastal forests and forests west of the Cascade Mountains right here in Oregon and northern California are among the most carbon-rich conifer forests in the world. Currently, forests pull about one-third of all human-caused emissions from the atmosphere, and if we allowed mature forests to grow, they could take up twice that amount. Protecting these forests is one of the most powerful climate mitigation strategies available, and its benefits can be fully realized by simply *not* logging these important public lands.

Currently, advocates across the country have identified over 370,000 acres of



These large diameter trees are proposed for logging in the Late Mungers Timber Sale above Murphy, Oregon. Many in the Applegate Valley believe this timber sale should be canceled and the BLM should permanently protect our last mature and old-growth forests and trees.

mature and old-growth forests proposed for logging by the BLM and USFS. This includes forests across the west and the midwest and the hardwood forests of the east. It also includes forests right here in the Applegate Valley and southwestern Oregon. In fact, in a series of reports released by the Forest Climate Campaign, 22 timber sales across the country have been identified as inconsistent with President Biden’s executive order on the protection of mature and old-growth forests, and the Medford District BLM had more timber sales on the list than any other land management agency.

Locally, the BLM is moving forward with the controversial IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) Project and the subsequently proposed Late Mungers and

Penn Butte Timber Sales in the mountains between Williams, Murphy, and Selma. These projects propose logging nine million board feet of mature and old-growth forests and trees in the Mungers Butte Late Successional Reserve, an area specifically set aside to protect old forest habitats and connectivity for the northern spotted owl. The project would log trees up to 42 inches in diameter and would leave as little as 30 percent canopy cover. It would also implement “group selection logging,” a form of staggered clear-cut logging that removes whole groves of mature trees.

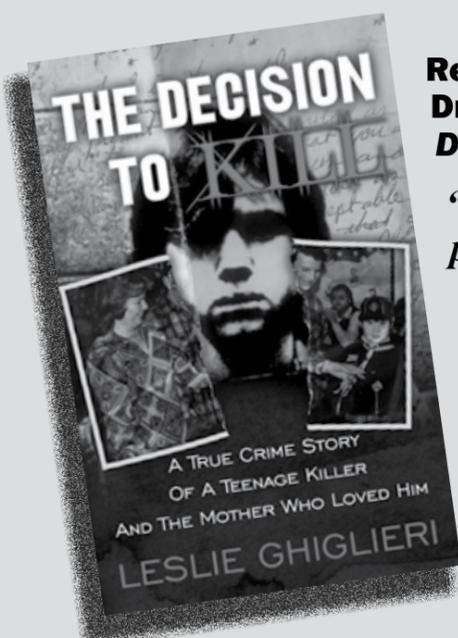
Residents and organizations throughout the Applegate Valley are asking our federal officials to cancel these timber sales and protect mature and old-growth forests nationwide. All too often, we propose protecting forests in faraway places like the Amazon or Congolese rainforests and the boreal forests of the far north as climate solutions. Yet we refuse to do our part right here in the Pacific Northwest, where some of the world’s most carbon-rich forests can be found.

We must protect the last mature and old-growth forests for the climate, for the water, for the wildlife, for the carbon stored in the trees, and for future generations. To protect these values, our global climate, and the health of our watersheds, the BLM must cancel the Late Mungers and Penn Butte Timber Sales. These and many other forests are simply worth more standing!

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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For more information, contact:

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OPINION

Gratitude

BY SANDY OLKEN

The famous quote by Benjamin Franklin, “We will not appreciate water until the well runs dry,” is as antiquated as its famous writer. Instead, a new paradigm of thought and action is being birthed by all who express our gratitude for water. Water, the most basic necessity for the continuation of life, is a gift to be cherished.

On May 29 there was a water blessing ceremony on Mt. Ashland, as well as in many other places around the world. People gathered to unite their voices, speaking and singing their gratitude for the water. We truly are immensely grateful for the rains that have refilled our reservoirs and replenished our rivers.

It is no small thing to turn on the faucet and have water come out. Or to turn on the irrigation and have the water necessary to keep our crops and livestock alive. The practice of receiving with reverence all that we have and need to take care of our children—our everything—is a worthy endeavor.

Masaru Emoto is known for his photography of water molecules. His book, *Love Thyself*, shows the change in the structure of water depending on what words were spoken at the time the photographs were taken. Water is alive, and all life is connected. Our gratitude is a kind of food for the water.

We can improve our lives simply by remembering to express our gratitude to the water—when we drink it, when we bathe in it, whenever we enjoy it, in all the ways we do. Grandma Aggie, our beloved Takelma elder, may she rest in peace, spent her lifetime teaching us about the importance of expressing our gratitude and love for the water.

I try to remember every time I cross the Applegate bridge in Applegate to breathe love and gratitude into our beautiful Applegate River. I try to remember to breathe into my heart a quiet “thank you” when I drink the sacred elixir of life.

Our gratitude for life and water has a tremendous effect on our world. The more hearts and voices that join together in a song of praise, the happier and healthier our world will be.

If you'd like to add your voice to the communal expression of gratitude but don't know how, I'll share this simple example: “Beautiful, holy, and sacred water, thank you for this life.”

The Williams Community Forest Project is actively involved in the protection of water. Our forests and our water are interdependent.

In my humble opinion, gratitude is the key to happiness.

Sandy Olken
sandyolken9@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Anyone know Cosmo the Crow?

A talking crow has gone missing, and I'm writing with the hope that someone knows what happened to him. I'm a reporter writing a story about Cosmo the Crow, who was last seen at 2:18 pm December 18, 2021.

Cosmo lived on Dreamhill Drive (in the Provolt-Williams area) and made national news when he flew into a Grants Pass school and began “playing with” and “talking” to children. But Cosmo could also be a nuisance, swooping at people, pecking at dogs, and, in a few instances, drawing blood. He was habituated to not be afraid of humans—which is why if Cosmo was killed, it wasn't a crime. Oregon State Police advised concerned neighbors they could shoot the bird.

It's possible someone encountered a crow acting aggressively and took action. Perhaps someone accidentally hit a crow with a car. Or maybe someone found a bird that appeared to say a few words and kept him as a pet.

If you encountered a strange crow, please reach out by email to cosmocrowtips@gmail.com or sswindler@oregonian.com. Any tips or leads are appreciated. If you killed Cosmo but don't want to share your name, you can reach out anonymously. I'm only hoping to provide closure to a small neighborhood mystery.

Samantha Swindler
sswindler@oregonian.com
Milwaukie, Oregon

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS FROM THE
CHAIR OF THE BOARDFarewell and hello again
to *Applegater* editors

BY DIANA COOGLE

It is with deep regret that I announce the resignation of our editor, Bert Etling.

Bert took over the editorship of the *Applegater* in 2020, when Barbara Holiday, editor since 2013, turned to other matters in her life.

Bert has been important to the *Applegater* in many ways, but without doubt the best thing he did for us was to bring us into membership of the Independent News Network, with its NewsMatch program, which has been so successful in putting us on more solid financial footing. With NewsMatch doubling every donation that comes in between November 1 and December 31, we have been able to breathe between issues at last, confident that our coffers held enough for the next edition.

The news of Bert's resignation comes with a bright side too: Barbara Holiday has returned as editor. Barbara never altogether left the *Applegater*, as she returned as the layout editor after resigning the

editorship, and then in December she rejoined the board. Now she will pick up where Bert left off—and where she left off before Bert took over—and serve the paper and the community once again with her strong leadership.

We are grateful to Bert for the time he has given us and his dedication to this paper and to the field of independent journalism altogether. After leaving the *Applegater*, he continues as editor of *Ashland.news*, a position he has held since October 2021 and one that has become more demanding now that it is moving into a print edition as well as the online edition.

Thank you, Bert. Don't be a stranger in the Applegate! We would love to see you at the Gater-est Show on Earth next fall.

Welcome back, Barbara. We're glad you have returned and look forward to working with you as editor again.

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

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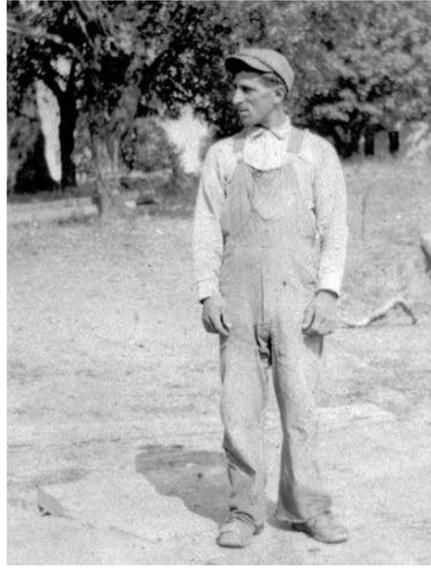
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ASK THE GATER



There's a story here! Wallace Palmer (born in 1915) and brother Shirley (born in 1920) in the Goat Buggy, Grants Pass circa 1921. Photo courtesy of Larry Hunt.



Dwight Lyman Moody Palmer, dairy manager at Leonard Estates Co., circa 1917. Photo by Albert L. Palmer, courtesy of Larry Hunt.

40 acres in Provolt and start his dairy. Eventually he bought another 40 acres, and when his two grandsons, Larry and David, were boys, they had the chore of milking 200 cows twice a day.

Albert L. Palmer (Wally's oldest brother and Moody's oldest son) was a photographer who worked for A.E. Voorhies at the Grants Pass *Courier* in the early 1920s. He took many photos of family and neighbors, as well as photos of the wider community, for the newspaper. Larry Hunt, the family genealogist, shared a big collection of Albert's photos and, with help from his aunts, Peggy and Donna, also some of the stories behind them. About the photo of the two children in the Goat Buggy, Peggy said, "I believe that's my dad, Wally, and his younger brother, Shirley. Dad said it was a pet goat. The goat and buggy were a unique sight around town."

More details came after Peggy talked to her sister, Donna, who recalled that "there was a man passing through Grants Pass getting pictures of different kids riding the Goat Buggy. Grandma didn't have enough money then to buy the picture, but when the man returned, Grandma Palmer did have the money. So the pet goat actually belonged to a man who offered to take photos of kids riding in a goat buggy. He did it for money!" It turns out that this wasn't one of Albert's photos after all.

Lisa Baldwin • lisa@applegater.org

Gater Tale: Applegate Valley rootstock families

BY LISA E BALDWIN

This Gater Tale is the story of five generations in the Applegate Valley, told by Larry Hunt, who currently lives just about halfway between Murphy and Provolt. Larry and his wife, Julie, raised their two children in the Applegate Valley, and both still live locally—Ben in Grants Pass, and Samantha in Jerome Prairie. Larry and his brother, David, were raised in Provolt on the family's dairy farm, the land that is currently home to Whistling Duck Farm. Larry's parents, Kenneth Hunt and Anita Palmer, helped run the dairy, which was started by Anita's father, Wallace Donald Palmer, and his wife, Mildred Edith Hetz Palmer. Three generations worked on the Palmer Dairy.

Wally's father, Dwight Lyman Moody Palmer, was the adventurous soul who came out west in the first years of the 20th

century. Moody Palmer was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and was raised by his uncle Charles. A mystic in New Brunswick told a teenaged Moody he would find his riches "out west," and by age 22, Moody was in the Yreka area, mining for gold.

According to family storytellers, "he and his Indian partner struck it rich" with a huge nugget. What became of Moody's share of the gold is a family mystery, but he found another treasure in Siskiyou County, marrying Florence M. Hegler in Yreka during the gold rush. Their oldest son, Albert, was born in Yreka but raised in southern Oregon. Their first home in the Applegate Valley was on the Leonard Estates Company's property, the old mint farm on Riverbanks Road, where the Applegate meets the Rogue, now known as Dinsdale Farm and Two Rivers Vineyard.

Moody's World War I registration card identifies him as a dairyman for Leonard Estates Company with an address of RFD 2 (Rural Free Delivery). In a nice turn of events, Moody's granddaughter, Alice Palmer Dinsdale, and her husband are the current owners of that beautiful piece of Applegate bottomland.

Wally Palmer (Moody's son, Alice's and Anita's father) went to work in Pondosa, a mill town near McCloud, California, but his dream was to own a dairy. By 1946 he had saved up enough money to buy

Who's lived in the Applegate the longest?

When new *Applegater* board member Jennifer Petersen asked about Applegate families with pioneer ancestors, wondering, "Who has lived here the longest?" it seemed like an ideal question for "Ask the Gater." After putting some feelers out to longtime friends and acquaintances, and a call out on social media, it soon became apparent that this is a big question requiring a big answer, much bigger than a single "Ask the Gater" column can cover, but this issue will get us started.

I started asking around to find current residents of the Applegate Valley with pioneer roots, and I found lots of folks who fit that bill. And people have stories to tell. I heard from a descendant of the Morrison and Warner families of Williams who is also connected by marriage to the Hills of Provolt. Speaking of Provolt, there are two cousins who live there today on their family's homesteaded land. I've got a story about the daughter of one of the Robinsons who settled in Jerome Prairie, near Wilderville; she married an Applegate man, and they made their home on Thompson Creek Road, where their descendants still live. There are folks who are connected to the Bolts (think Bolt Mountain). Also connected to the Bolts were the Kubli brothers, Kaspar and Jacob; one of Jacob's direct descendants lives in Jerome Prairie now and may share some stories. I also heard from a friend whose mother is a Palmer—not the Upper Applegate Palmers, but the family that ultimately landed in Provolt and who are the subject of our first Gater Tale (see above).

This is just a small dip into our historical gene pool, and there are big names not yet mentioned, like McKee, Buckley, Applegate. I don't know if we can say who has been here the longest or if that is even what matters. More important is knowing our community's history and appreciating our roots.

In the coming months, we here at the *Applegater* will collect these family histories, these family stories, and bring them to you, our readers, in a new series of articles with a working title of Gater Tales. If your family is one of the Applegate Valley's rootstock families (those who came here in the 19th century or very early in the 20th) and you still call the Applegate Valley home, we want to hear from you. We invite you to share your family lore.

**Send your idea for a Gater Tale to
Lisa Baldwin at lisa@applegater.org.**

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Grains of change: Farmers are reviving ancient and heritage grains in the Rogue Valley

BY ANN NGUYEN

The weekend before the spring equinox, local farmers, millers, and bakers gathered to break bread and celebrate the results of four years of hard work to revive, scale up, and grow rare and almost extinct heritage and ancient grains from all over the world.

The gathering took place at Fry Family Farm in Medford, where farmers showcased bread made from the heritage grains they grew. Plates heaped with samples of fresh-milled sourdough-cultured breads were displayed next to individual bags of grains with names of each variety: Termoki wheat, Ladhaki wheat, Georgian Winter wheat, Rouge de Bordeaux wheat, Uli Hache rye, and so on. There were also cookies made with rye, sorghum, Tibetan purple barley, and amaranth, and cornbread from two maize varieties.

As we sampled the breads, a team of bakers led by Jeremiah Thorndike Church (Boreal Heat), pulled out more freshly baked loaves from a wood-fired oven. It's not often that I get to sample ancient grains, some more than 10,000 years old, grown right here in the Rogue Valley.

The Rogue Valley Grains Project (RVGP) began four years ago when Chris Hardy, of Hardy Seeds, received more than 100 varieties of rare seeds in a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance and began to grow them in Ashland, along with seeds from his own collection. Some varieties had thousands of years' ancestry. Emmer was domesticated as far back as 6300 BCE, with widespread cultivation in ancient Egypt around 5500 BCE. Hourani wheat was stored by King Herod 2,000 years ago.

While preserving cultural heritage is itself a meaningful endeavor, the larger

goal of RVGP is to grow its own climate-adapted grains. Heritage grains are known for their ability to increase soil carbon and other organic matter, which increase on-farm resilience and the soil's capacity for holding water and nutrients. Heritage grains are also known for having greater nutrient density than modern varieties of conventional and organic grains.

Chris enlisted a dozen growers from around the Rogue Valley, including Fry Family Farm, Shanti Acres, Eagle Mill Farm, Dunn Ranch, Feral Farm, and Wandering Fields, to grow the seeds and record the results. The trials for the first year were conducted at Hardy Seeds. Performance factors included climate adaptability, dry farming, disease and pest resistance, shattering, storage, and yield. Grower participants returned 15-20 percent of their yield back to the RVGP seed library.

Ben Yohai, of Wandering Fields, in the Applegate, shared his trial results: "We trialed three barley varieties (Tibetan black, Himalayan, and Rinpoche), three wheat varieties (Alaska, Banatka, and Red Fife), and Spokane oats. They all performed well with minimal lodging. No irrigation was supplied with the exception of a couple of rounds of overhead in the late spring. Unfortunately, the ground squirrels harvested more than I did, so we primarily had the Tibetan Black barley and the Spokane oats yield an appreciable amount. I would trial them again with the intention of seeding at higher density and trapping for squirrels."

Scott McGuire, a grower in Wimer, spoke enthusiastically about Rouge de Bordeaux wheat. Although he did



Baked goods ready for sampling by seeds of the type of grains used in their preparation. Photo: Ann Nguyen.

own locally grown organic heritage wheat.

The project has been an intensive collaborative effort that takes many hands. The Organic Seed Alliance in Washington, along with Redwood Seeds in California, provided threshing equipment; Niedermeyer Farms supplied a grain combine; and Fry Family Farm purchased a grain cleaner. The project still lacks facilities for drying large quantities of

grains and storing the seeds. not irrigate the crops last year, they performed well.

When asked to share his top five favorite varieties, Chris replied, "Toulouse emmer, which I love because it's nutrient dense and is a hull-less variety, which is extremely rare. Black and tan einkorn, ditto. Termoki wheat, for its regenerative potential for the soil and delicious versatility in the kitchen (especially pancakes!). Guatemalan amaranth for its nutrition and drought tolerance, and the Rogue red quinoa we have been growing and selecting for more than 15 years, which is extremely tolerant of heat and can be dry farmed."

The trial results have been promising enough that Fry Family Farm is scaling up from the two acres they planted in fall 2021 to 100 acres of Rouge de Bordeaux wheat, Ukrainka wheat, and Tibetan purple barley this fall. Fry hopes to soon provide the valley with our

grains and storing the seeds.

As the group gathered to hear Chris's update on the project, the hope and excitement were palpable. What if we grew our own locally adapted grains? What if we milled it here and produced our own distinct Rogue Valley bread? Looking around at the folks in attendance—farmers and gardeners, commercial bakers, millers, food co-op owners, and local families from all over the valley—all the ingredients seem to be in place. RVGP has also been in contact with growers and millers in nearby Scott Valley in California and the Umpqua Valley.

Interested in taking part in this grassroots movement to grow nutritious, drought-tolerant, soil-building heritage grains in the Rogue Valley? You can reach Chris Hardy directly at cmhardy@gmail.com.

Ann Nguyen • anguyen1130@gmail.com

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Madrona Folk School offers a fresh, fun option for homeschoolers

BY DOVE OLDHAM

In the Applegate Valley we have a robust and vibrant homeschool community. There are roughly 400-500 homeschooled youth in the Three Rivers School District alone. To support homeschooled youth and families, Dove and Shandin Oldham opened Madrona Folk School in early 2022. After unchooling and homeschooling their own children for two years on their family farm, they realized it would be fun and rewarding to open a school for other families to join. Dove received training in Waldorf education from Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento, California, nearly completed her California teaching credential, and started an outdoor parent-led homeschool co-op in Chico, California, that ran for five years. Shandin led the youth and education program at an income-sharing community in Virginia (Twin Oaks), tutored college students in math and sciences, worked as a field botanist, and was raised by a family of schoolteachers.

Madrona Folk School, located in the New Hope Road area of Grants Pass, is a microschool offering supplemental classes in arts, experiential academics, and land-based living skills. Our educational philosophy combines elements of Waldorf education, classical education, and Nature Immersion. After a year and a half of offering six to eight weeklong classes in everything from field botany and Spanish to fine arts, book clubs, and real-world math, Madrona Folk School is growing to offer a yearlong three-day program for fourth- through eighth-grade homeschooled youth for the 2023-2024 school year.

Madrona Folk School is a vendor with three local homeschool charter schools that provide families with funds for classes and school materials.

In October 2022 Madrona Folk School was chosen as a quarterfinalist for the Yass Prize, which honors education entrepreneurs who are offering programs that advance four core principles of education: that it be sustainable, transformational, outstanding, and permissionless. The Yass Prize was awarded to 64 education organizations nationwide in 2022. It was a great honor to receive this award and to learn from the rich experiences of other education entrepreneurs across the country.

Madrona Folk School offers education that centers connection and relationships and encourages students' intrinsic motivation to learn new things, to participate in interesting, new experiences, and to excel in whatever activities they engage in. We do not use rewards or



Class at Madrona Folk School in Grants Pass.

punishment to motivate cooperation and learning experiences. This means we will not take away free time as a punishment and we will not give out candy or other rewards. We believe that positive relationships, group belonging, words of appreciation, having fun, and gaining new skills are the inherent rewards of learning. We seek to inspire and cultivate the learner's inner motivation to learn and gain mastery in the given subject.

Madrona Folk School doesn't use grades or testing to evaluate learners. Rather, learners create portfolios of their work and performances to share with their peers and families as a means of demonstrating their mastery in each area of learning. At the end of each eight-week class session we hold a family potluck with an art show, portfolios, and performances. Last session youth shared poetry they had written, a play they wrote and costumed, and a brilliant display of geometric artwork from our geometry and art class.

This spring Madrona Folk School is offering classes in Greek theater, reading and writing, farming, Spanish, and hand-drumming for youth in third to seventh grades. Classes are small, often with a 1:7 teacher to student ratio, with 14 students in each class. Teachers are able to offer individualized and personalized connection and mentoring to each one. Youth with learning differences or other special needs are able to have their needs met and to thrive in a warm and welcoming environment. Multiage classes make for a noncompetitive environment where students enjoy learning from each other and sharing their knowledge as well.

This summer Madrona Folk School is offering two summer camps. In collaboration with Erin Morton from Elemental Forest School, we are offering a crafts, games, and swimming camp on June 19-22 at Josephine County's Fish Hatchery Park. On July 5-7, we are offering an Herbalist Camp for youth ages 10-14 in collaboration with herbalist Lauren Kemple, which will be held at Oshala Herb Farm and Provolt Recreation area.

Dove Oldham • dovekin42@gmail.com
madronafolkschool.love

Woodland Charter School wraps up a successful school year

BY CHRIS CARMIENCE

Woodland Charter School is wrapping up the successful 2022-2023 school year! There have been many successes and achievements this school year and we would like to thank the support of the families, the community, the amazing teaching staff, and the students we serve for making this a memorable year. We will share some recent highlights with *Applegater* readers.

We are thrilled to announce that Three Rivers School District has voted to renew our charter. We value our partnership with Three Rivers School District and are pleased that we will be able to continue working alongside them in the years to come. It is our hope to make them proud of their charter schools!

In addition, we are officially moving forward with our kindergarten program for the 2023-24 school year! We are pleased to announce that our kindergarten teacher for next year is Misti Lefevre, who brings years of independent early childhood experience using the Waldorf model. With the addition of kindergarten we anticipate serving close to 200 students for the next school year.

In April and May all of our classes put on theater performances for a school audience! This year our classes have been excited to showcase the class community spirit by putting on a production, including set design, costumes, props, and acting. Many of the performances relate to thematic blocks that students study. For example, the seventh grade studied the Renaissance, and this year they performed *Romeo and Juliet*. We all enjoyed many memorable and exceptional performances.



Outdoor School at Camp Gray. Photo: Meg Schreiber.

This spring many of our students were able to attend some amazing field trips. Our sixth grade attended Outdoor School with Lorna Byrne Middle School at OMSI's (the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) Camp Gray for three days in April. The sixth grade also participated in the Medieval Games in Ashland, a two-day event with friendly

competition between three local Waldorf Schools. Some activities included javelin, archery, siege archery, jousting, and more. The fifth grade took part in another event with other local Waldorf Schools: the Olympiad. This took place at Pacifica and involved Greek Olympic events, including relays, archery, javelin, wrestling, and more. The seventh grade has planned a trip to Newport, and graduating eighth graders will be going to San Francisco.

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 Josephine and Jackson county families who are looking for something different and appreciate the continued support of Three Rivers School District for sponsoring us.

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

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■ SOLADA

Continued from page 17

selecting a more permanent location and day. Check the website for information.

In July and August, Solada will continue with the Death Cafe and Doula Meet-up. In September, Solada will once again begin our more robust class schedule.

Solada is an ever-evolving, dedicated group of caring professionals who are here to help and offer support to members of our community facing the challenges of grief, dying, and death. We offer a supportive environment to discuss the personal, collective, and environmental death that we are all navigating. While we are a fledgling

group and certainly acknowledge the immense contributions of the medical and hospice communities, we see some areas where people are struggling. It is our sincere desire to be of service as you and your loved ones grapple with the topics and process of grief, dying, and death. We are here to engage in these important conversations with grace, compassion, and humility. Please feel free to check out our website, sign up for our monthly emails, and offer suggestions about classes that you think would be relevant.

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Smokey Bear visited K-3 classes in April and gave students important reminders about fire prevention.

Applegate School activities abound before year-end

BY JEAN HALL

Spring brought a new burst of activities at Applegate School. Gardening, field trips, science projects, and special visitors to the classrooms have involved students in exciting learning projects. With the help of White Oak Farm, K-3 students developed a beautiful garden where they spend time weeding and planting each week. Fourth and fifth graders have been cleaning up the butterfly garden and are planting new milkweeds in the original milkweed bed and flowers in the other bed.

Mrs. Hirschmugl and Mrs. Halsted have arranged for their K-3 students to go on field trips to White Oak Farm, Pacifica, the Applegate Fire Station 1, and the Applegate branch of the Jackson County Library. Fourth and fifth graders read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and are looking forward to seeing a live production at the Britt Festival in May.

Most middle-school students earned a reward day at the end of the third quarter by maintaining their grades and showing good behavior. They played bunko, watched a movie, had extra time outside, and enjoyed ice cream sundaes.

Eighth graders took a class trip to the coast on May 26. Mrs. Gourley says the exploration of the redwood trees included rope bridges through the trees and a cable car ride to a higher vantage point. Students spent the remainder of the day on the Oregon coast beach where they played games, visited the tide pools, and had a bonfire.

Science projects have opened up new learning for Applegate students. K-3 classes each had an incubator full of eggs, which hatched at the end of April. Students in both classrooms learned about the life cycle of chickens, beginning with a study of the parts of an egg. Some eggs in the incubators were fertilized from a rooster that K-1 students hatched in their classroom last year. Other eggs were donated from Walport Family Vineyards. At Family Science night on April 25, students showcased their project.

In fourth and fifth grades, students have been working through the scientific process with a series of mini experiments having to do with the properties of water.

In addition to these experiments, the class has been studying the ecology and four different local habitats in the Upper Table Rock area. The class will wrap up their study with a hike to Upper Table Rock.

Special visitors to the classrooms helped to broaden the students' understanding. Guests from the Applegate Valley Fire Department and the US Forest Service spoke to the K-3 classes about fire prevention. Smokey Bear visited K-3 classes on April 18 and gave them more reminders about fire prevention. Before he left, he hugged or high-fived each student. A group called "Japan on the Road" visited the K-3 classes to teach students about Japanese customs and culture.

Middle-school students have been doing projects to enhance their new learning. Eighth graders finished reading *The Outsiders* and then created a box diorama for one of the iconic scenes in the book. Then they watched the movie and did a compare/contrast between the movie and the book.

In social studies, sixth graders have been working on a project about the people groups of South America. They studied Central America and the Caribbean and took a deep look at the rainforest. Seventh and eighth graders have done projects on Ancient Rome in which they built a 3D model of the ancient city and labeled significant locations, events, and people. Their latest project is the creation of a display board around early American civilizations.

Other events for Applegate students included spring conferences and state testing for grades three through eight. Track-and-field day was at the end of May. The Moving On ceremony for eighth graders will take place on June 5 at 1 pm. A few students have been selected to give speeches. Those who have attended the school from kindergarten through eighth grade will be honored. Students are creating memory boards to display during the ceremony.

Happy summer to all the Applegate School staff and students!

Jean Hall

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Where every day is Earth Day

BY SOFIA MACIEL

Earth's awakening, otherwise known as spring, has been long awaited here in the Pacific Northwest after a long winter. In April, students were preparing for warmer weather, exploring outdoors, and tending to more food crops in our growing school garden. Each student, like the blooming plants, gets a chance to flourish in our garden space alongside peers, teachers,



First and second graders in Ms. Neiswanger's class do some work in the garden. Photo: Sofia Maciel.

community volunteers, bugs, lizards, and so much more.

Earth Day is a well-loved holiday celebrated here at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). This year we celebrated with a spring in our step! Community members from all over southern Oregon came to volunteer their time and teach our students an array of new Earthly knowledge.

Kindergarteners hiked along the Applegate Ridge trail surveying different flowers in bloom. Led by their teacher, the class made observations and collected data about the changes occurring in our new sunny season.

First graders tended to our pollinator garden on campus. They used gardening tools to plant new seeds and prepare new garden beds for future garden projects that support the essential insects, birds, and people at Ruch. They also painted decorative rocks for the school garden with the help of Cheryl Whitney, our artistic community partner.

Second and third graders created natural wood cookie windchimes with Cheryl to hang in their own gardens or homes and then explored riparian habitats at our local park with their teachers.

Fourth and fifth grades rotated stations at ROCS where they learned new skills and practiced environmental awareness with local volunteer teachers. Caleb Galloway, an Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) volunteer and teacher, took students on interpretive hikes through the school's nature park. He was impressed by Ruch students and their knowledge of local plants and organisms. In another station, students observed donated carcasses of coho and steelhead salmon and learned what role this creature plays in our rivers and habitats. Another station was led by Jennifer Payne, with Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, to practice burning different fuel combinations. Students discussed why we practice controlled burning in southern Oregon. Lastly, Ruch students expressed gratitude to the Earth in the garden with Darien Aubinoe, our teaching partner

from White Oak Farm and Education Center. They created artistic heartfelt cards, giving thanks to all that felt special to them about the Earth in that moment.

Middle schoolers ended the day with community service. Sixth graders helped service the ROCS campus and garden while seventh and eighth graders did service at Cantrall Buckley Park. After taking interpretive hikes with Caleb, the APWC vegetation monitor, and Darien, the education liaison at White Oak Farm, half of the middle schoolers removed invasive English ivy along trail systems and the other half removed invasive blackberries along riparian ecosystems. They all used hand tools, protective equipment, and teamwork to accomplish the job.

Each of our community volunteers thought the Ruch students were awesome. We agreed that they are curious, fun-loving, outdoorsy, and adventurous spirits that bring their own spice of life to our teaching.

At the end of this busy Earth celebration, the buzz of bees, the chatter of students, and the fellowship of community filled our school breezeways. Each student was offered a ponderosa pine tree sapling to plant where they felt more nature was needed. As this year's AmeriCorps service member in charge of Rural Environmental Education and coordination at ROCS, I am overwhelmed with awe at how much these students have wondered and observed and how much they have taught me as they learn in nature.

I am also in awe of how willing the community, the parents, and the organizations are to come together to support the values and the mission of ROCS. The Applegate Valley is a beautiful environment inside and out, filled with love of working and learning outside. There is a never-ending list of lessons to be learned from nature, no matter your age. There is always a new mystery, a new challenge, or a new observation to be discovered in the outdoors.

Sofia Maciel, AmeriCorps
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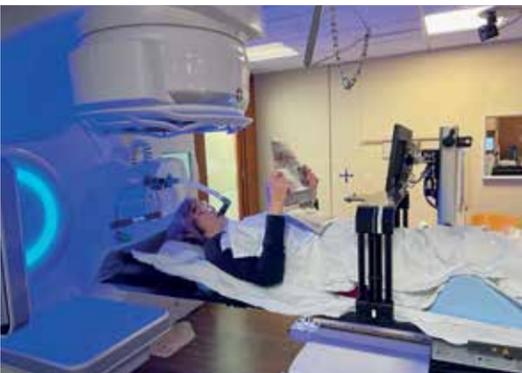
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Have a safe and sane Fourth of July!

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, top row from left:

- Annette Parsons** checked the Gater's tsunami forecast while kayaking in Morro Bay, California.
- Jessica Bullard** followed the Applegater trail guides while in Yardie Gorge, western Australia.
- Ronaldo Tate** studied facts in the Gater about Ta Prohm Temple near Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- Megan Fehrman** found a special spot on the Oregon coast for her dog and the Applegater.

Photos, bottom row from left:

- Amber Applegate** enjoyed the Gater while in the radiology lab at OHSU, Portland.
- Karen Giese** read the Applegater to nephew Marius and brothers Michael and Doug at their house in Turks and Caicos.
- Luke Ruediger** and the Gater lobbied for mature and old forest protections in Washington, DC.

■ FISHING IN APPLGATE

Continued from page 1

Not quite nothing. The biggest fish Teresa Kasza, a retired fly-fishing guide (she called her business Rainbows on the Fly), ever caught was an 11- or 12-pound steelhead from the Applegate River in 2012. She caught it by nymphing—the fly nine feet under an indicator bobbing on the surface.

"You can tell it's a wild fish," she told me, holding up the photograph, "because it has this adipose fin near the tail. This fin is cut off from hatchery fish."

Teresa will never kill a wild fish. "You want to keep the genetics in the river," she said. Actually, she releases hatchery fish, too, since, in her words, "the tug is the drug." She keeps a caught fish underwater till the camera is ready for the "hero shot," then brings it up for only as long as she can hold her breath before putting it back in the

river, giving it a moment to recover, and letting it go.

To fish the Applegate River, Teresa will row downriver to a bend, then get out of her boat and "walk the beat, swinging." Anglers are not allowed to fish from floating devices in the Applegate River, or in tributary streams, where fish go to spawn. Teresa continues down the river, swinging—casting so that the fly swings into the seam between slow and fast water, two steps down, casting again.

"Fish hang out in the softer water, then snatch a bug from the fast water," she explained. "The presentation of a dry fly on a dead drift is the real art of fly fishing"—keeping the right amount of slackness between the bug on the water and the rod tip, creating no wake.

Lakes in the Applegate also have good fishing. Applegate Lake, Miller Lake, the Acorn Woman lakes, and, in the Red Buttes Wilderness, Azalea, Lonesome, Echo, and Hello lakes are all

stocked with rainbow or brook trout. Applegate Lake is also stocked with Chinook salmon. You can catch (if you're lucky) largemouth bass, bluegill, and black crappie in the Applegate and Acorn Woman lakes; also, in the former, smallmouth bass, and in the latter, yellow perch and cutthroat trout. Applegate Lake is the only lake with boat ramps, so an angler works from the banks of the other lakes unless he or she has carried in an inflatable boat.

Permits for fishing in the Red Buttes come from California Fish and Game, while the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife issues permits for all Oregon lakes and rivers. Limits vary. "Stocking in the Applegate Lake supports recreation," says Steve Brazier, fisheries biologist at Star Ranger Station. "Limits are enforced to prevent greedy takes." The success rate for bank angling, he notes, is high.

"Populations of winter steelhead and fall Chinook (in the Rogue) have remained

pretty stable in the last 50 years," Steve says. (Teresa disagrees.) The same is not true, of course, for coho salmon, which are on the federally endangered list.

Because the Applegate Dam stopped the natural transport of gravel downriver, the US Forest Service has an ongoing aquatic restoration project to augment spawning gravel below the dam.

Teresa's addiction to fishing might come from the thrill of the catch, but the enjoyment she gets from the sport goes beyond what happens between her hands on the rod and the fish on the hook. "I feel sorry for the fish," she admits. "But fishing is my meditation. It's just me, the fly rod, and the indicator floating on the water—and the osprey, the ducklings, the otters."

Or, as she puts it most succinctly, "There are no ugly places to fly fish in the Applegate."

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