

Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen | applegater.org

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

Celebrating
~30~
Years

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Thanks to you, we met our goal!

A big round of applause for all of you who donated to the *Applegater* in November-December 2023. We met our \$15,000 match cap to be doubled by NewsMatch. We appreciate your generosity, Applegaters! In fact, all readers of the *Applegater* appreciate all who help keep it a vital part of our community.

See entire message from the board chair on page 21.

Applegate Valley loses wine pioneer and entrepreneur Kara Olmo

Kara Lynn Olmo, a key figure in establishing the Applegate Valley as a premier wine destination, passed away on December 14, 2023, in a house full of people who loved her. She is survived by her husband, Greg Paneitz, her four children—Dante and Tazio Dondero and Ellia and Corvin Paneitz—her mother, Susan Olmo, and her brother, Keith Olmo, and his family—Brooke, Arrington, Irelynn, and Greyson.

Born on December 18, 1973, in San Francisco, California, Kara was raised in Marin County. After attending culinary school in San Francisco, she ventured into the hospitality industry in California and Las Vegas before entering the wine world as a farmer-liaison for the Lodi Wine Board. Kara attended Fresno State for its enology program, where she met Greg. The two of them moved to southern Oregon in 2002 and began working at Valley View Winery. They cofounded and ran Wooldridge Creek Winery, which is where they stayed until 2020.



Kara Olmo committed "countless hours and personal resources" to the betterment of the Applegate Valley.

As a pioneer of sustainable practices in grape-growing and winemaking, Kara was always brainstorming ways to grow their business as well as sate her bottomless curiosity. She and Greg started the Oregon kegged-wine trend as the first winery in the state to offer wine to restaurants in that format. With her guidance as one of the first women on the Oregon Wine Board, the OLCC approved the sale of wine in growlers. In 2015, she learned to make cheese and charcuterie, and Wooldridge Creek became the first licensed winery and creamery in the state.

See KARA OLMO, page 2.

Please join us to
celebrate the *Applegater's*
30th Birthday

4:30-7:30 pm
Sunday, June 2, 2024
Vista 222, 222 Missouri Flat Road

Special presentations and entertainment,
including J.D. Rogers, the *Applegater's*
long-serving first editor

•
Music by Stolen Moments
Catered dinner by Black Barn Farm
Silent Auction

•
Tickets \$50 each
Includes one glass of wine

•
Complimentary shuttle from
parking lot to building

•
Purchase tickets at Eventbrite.com
or contact Diana Coogle at
diana@applegater.org

No one under 21 allowed. No pets.

Conserving our legacy The Applegate Open Paragliding Race to Goal returns!

BY TERRI STEWART

Thrill seekers and paragliding enthusiasts, rejoice! The US Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (USHPA)-sanctioned Applegate Open Paragliding Race to Goal is making a triumphant return to grace the skies of the Applegate Valley with vibrant wings once again.

After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic and other challenges, the event is set to take flight from July 2-8, 2024, promising an unforgettable week of adrenaline-pumping competition, breathtaking scenery, and a vibrant community spirit.

See PARAGLIDING, page 28.



Pilot just off the Woodrat Mountain mid-launch heading out in the valley. Photo: RVHPA.

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HISTORY - HERITAGE

The *Applegater* welcomes William Whitney and Rachel Arappagis

The current members of the *Applegater* Board of Directors—Barbara Holiday, Laura Duey, Margaret Patterson, and I—are pleased to welcome two new members. Whit Whitney, who joined in January of this year, and Rachel Arappagis, who joined in February, bringing wonderful energy and important skills with them.

William Whitney, who goes by Whit, brings many skills to the board: writing, editing, copy-editing, photography, art, and website design. He worked for 25 years as an art director at a large New York City ad agency, then served as the same company's executive creative director in Los Angeles. He and his wife, Cheryl, have lived in the Applegate since 2016. (See his first official article for the *Applegater* on page 26.)

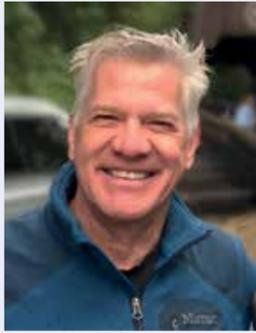
Rachel Arappagis, who grew up in Medford and has lived in Williams for the past five years, has become our new ad manager. Hurrah! We *needed* someone to do this job, and we couldn't have found anyone more suitable. She describes herself as being "process-driven and good at solutions analysis."

Whit has had experience working with a number of nonprofits, among them the McKee Bridge Historical Society and a group called WAEV, which helps women in polygamous African countries who have been thrown out of their households (and tribes or communities) when their husbands take another wife. He and Cheryl also volunteer at Mercy's Gate, which works to fend off homelessness for people undergoing financial crisis. Now he is adding the *Applegater* to the list of organizations he volunteers for.

Rachel works in digital marketing at Rogue Credit Union, which invests and supports the communities it serves and encourages its employees to volunteer in their own communities. Now that she and her partner, Jared, have finished building her mother's dream house in Williams, she is ready to spend time helping her community. We are so lucky that she chose the *Applegater*!

Sincere thanks to both Whit and Rachel for giving their energy and expertise to the *Applegater*. I, personally, and also the rest of the board, look forward to working with them both.

Diana Coogle, Chair, *Applegater* Board of Directors
diana@applegater.org



William (Whit) Whitney



Rachel Arappagis

Upcoming events at Sugarloaf Community Association

BY WINDSONG MARTIN

The Sugarloaf Community Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1997. The seven-acre park-like property, located at 206 Tetherow Road, Williams, was purchased via numerous generous donations and is available for use by the community from sunrise to sunset daily.

There are two playgrounds and a new Sport Court for basketball, pickleball, shuffleboard, roller skating, and other sports. There is also a band shell, a large soccer field, a community resource center, and a small classroom on the land.

SCA spring and summer events

- Tree-grafting Scion Exchange, noon-4 pm Saturday, March 10.
- Earth Day 2024 celebration, Sunday April 21. Music, environmental education, and games for the whole community. Stay tuned for more details on our website at sugarloafcommunityassociation.org.
- The 2024 Williams Farmers Market will open at 4-6:30 pm Monday, May 6, and continue on Mondays through October.
- We will continue to host free First Monday Concerts, sponsored by our Monday Pub through their sales of hot food and beverages at market each week.

The farmers market will remain a place to purchase fresh organic produce, bread, plants, various herbal products, and delightful handmade items from local artisans, as well as a hub for community connection.

We expect to again distribute over \$14,000 EBT/SNAP dollars and to offer Double Up Food Bucks to EBT customers to spend on quality food with our Applegate Valley farmers! Come join in the fun.

More wonderful offerings will be announced on our website.

SCA hosts community events

SCA is a volunteer-run collective space that hosts community events and groups like the Rogue Writers Guild, Klamath Siskiyou Herbal Alliance, and Rogue Harm Reduction. If you are interested in using the space for a workshop or a class, please email sugarloafcenter@gmail.com. We aim to make the space accessible!

For more details, visit sugarloafcommunityassociation.org. For general inquiries, email the SCA Board of Directors at info@sugarloafcommunityassociation.org.

For information about using the band shell and SCA grounds, which are available for concerts, classes, sports, and community events, please write to events@sugarloafcommunityassociation.org.

We encourage everyone who uses the grounds to help keep it beautiful! It is a precious community resource that we hope will last for many generations.

Windsong Martin
SCA Board Member
windsongmusic21@gmail.com

■ KARA OLMO

Continued from page 1



Kara Olmo tastes a wine in the barrel room at Wooldridge Creek Winery.

Beyond her business endeavors, Kara made significant philanthropic contributions to the Applegate Valley community and throughout southern Oregon. She served on the Three Rivers School District Board and was chairperson for the last two years of her term. She successfully petitioned for a \$1.2-million grant to revitalize the classic Applegate School building. She served on the boards of GACDC (now A Greater Applegate), Oregon Live, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, and the Applegate Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area), and generously supported other environmental and artistic groups with her time and funding.

Kara was a dedicated mother to her four children. She loved books, music, travel, and hosting dinner parties that went late into the night. Known for her quick laughter, Kara was endlessly generous with advice and time for friends. She leaves a void that will be hard to fill.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Kara's name are encouraged for the *Applegater*, A Greater Applegate, the Britt Education Fund, or Barnstormers Theatre.

Tributes to Kara Olmo

Recently the Applegate Valley lost a beautiful soul and community member. Kara Olmo's three-year battle with cancer came to an end on December 14, 2023. Kara's impact on our community was wide and deep. I had the opportunity to work closely with Kara on just a few of her many passion projects and want to pay tribute to her work, her heart, and the amazing vision she had in every dream she imagined and brought to fruition.

Kara came into my life in 2010, when I was principal at Applegate School. A shared friend introduced us, saying, "You two have to meet. Kara will rock your world." And rock my world she did. In Kara I saw someone who was ready to make a difference, someone who saw a need and an opportunity in the Applegate School community to do some incredible work, someone who had a drive and a focus rarely seen in a true dreamer.

Through her steadfast vision, Kara secured a million-dollar grant to retrofit the Old Building at Applegate School so students could once again fill its rooms. She created The Friends of Applegate School, which provided a robust strings program for third- through eighth-grade students, an Artist-in-Residence program for all students at Applegate, and a wonderful after-school gardening program run by Linda Kappen, the infamous butterfly lady.

Kara committed countless hours and personal resources to Applegate School for many years. And if that wasn't enough, she also joined the Three Rivers School District Board of Directors, serving from July 2013-June 2017, including a stint as board chair. Those were challenging times on the board and for our school district, and Kara faced each challenge with a sharp focus on what was best for our students and how to add to and enrich their lives.

Applegate School, Three Rivers School District, and the Applegate community owe Kara and Wooldridge Creek Winery so much gratitude. Her grace, her huge heart, and her brilliant mind worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of so many. Thank you, Kara. So many of us gained so much by sharing in your life, in your generosity, and in your kind and feisty spirit. Thank you for showing up, doing the important work, and making a difference every single day. The Applegate is a better place because of you.

Stephanie Allen-Hart
Former Principal, Applegate School
stephanie.allen-hart@threerivers.k12.or.us

While Kara Olmo is probably best known for her part in creating a wonderful wine and cheese experience at Wooldridge Creek Winery, she was very involved and committed to her community. She made a great many contributions to southern Oregon and had a passion for the Applegate Valley in particular.

Kara was a member of the board of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) for over six years. GACDC was originally created as a community organization to manage Cantrall Buckley Park when Jackson County did not have the resources to do so. The organization also served in other ways to improve the quality of life in the Applegate and eventually became the organization now known as A Greater Applegate.

Her fellow board members remember her as a strong and thoughtful voice on GACDC. She was key to many fundraising efforts, winemaker dinners at the park, and Applegate Valley Days. She helped bring focus to the all-volunteer group and was one of the first to promote the idea of having a farmers market in the Applegate as a way of furthering community connections. Kara helped

guide the all-volunteer organization, offering ideas, connecting with the businesses and wineries of the valley to help support Cantrall Buckley Park—and always bringing the wine.

Bonnie Rinaldi
Former Chair, GACDC
bonnie@rinaldinet.com

We first met Greg and Kara around 2003 when they had completed their studies in enology at Fresno State University. It took them three meetings to convince us to start a winery. From the beginning, Kara was the one with the big ideas who did not know the meaning of the word "no."

She started the Wooldridge Creek Wine Club by offering a one-night stay per year in the Carriage House apartment. When memberships exceeded 400, it dawned on her one day that "Oops, we might have a problem." We all had a good laugh over that.

From the beginning, she was interested in making cheese. Several years later, when we realized that we needed to offer food to our guests, she was instrumental in getting Crush Pad Creamery going.

Cheese was almost more of a passion for her than wine, and she spent many evenings in our small facility. When we needed a larger creamery, she was instrumental in the design and oversaw the construction of the Big White Barn.

She served on the Oregon Wine Board and spent many hours on the phone and in her car on 1-5 in pursuit of furthering the wine industry in southern Oregon. Her enthusiasm in support of Wooldridge Creek Winery and the southern Oregon wine industry was a large factor in the wine industry's success over the years. Thank you, Kara.

Ted and Mary Warrick
Owners, Wooldridge Creek Winery
wooldridgecreek@earthlink.net

42nd Annual Quilt Show in Grants Pass in May

BY LIZA CROSSE

The Rogue Valley Piecemakers will hold their 42nd Annual Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 10-11, 2024, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. The Pavilion will be full of beautiful quilts on display. We will have lots of surprises and special displays as this year's theme is "The Wild and Scenic Rogue!"

The show will feature beautiful bed, lap, and children's quilts, innovative art quilts, other fabric-related items, and quilts made by guild members celebrating the theme. Knowledgeable guild members will be on hand both days to answer questions about quilts and quilting. Back by popular demand are demonstrations and "make and take" classes that will be held on both days at no additional cost.

The Piecemakers' Heartworks Boutique will sell gently used sewing supplies, quilts, and gifts handcrafted by guild members. Vendors from Oregon and California will sell fabrics, patterns, and the latest notions and machines.

Attendees could win door prizes (given away hourly on both days) or raffle items of themed baskets and prizes. They can also purchase tickets for a chance to win the Piecemakers 2024 Opportunity Quilt, "Misted Pines." Proceeds will benefit the Josephine County Humane Society and Josephine County Search and Rescue. A silent auction will include quilts, wall hangings, and other items. Auction and Opportunity Quilt winners

will be announced prior to the close of the show on Saturday afternoon.

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

The purpose of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers is to contribute to the growth and knowledge of quilting through friendship, inspiration, education, and community outreach. Our meetings provide a time to enjoy fellowship, learn more about quilting techniques, and share experiences about the art of making quilts. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in quilting. Our activities include Sit and Stitch, Show and Tell, demonstrations and workshops,

classes taught by professional teachers, and the Comfort Quilt program.

Visitors are welcome! Join us on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9 am-noon at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass.

For more information, please stop by one of our meetings, write Rogue Valley Piecemakers, PO Box 5652, Grants Pass, OR 97527, or visit rvpiecemakers.com.

Liza Crosse
lizacrosse@comcast.net



Applegate Valley residents Deb Wheeler and Lauri Dobbs practice the ancient craft of quilting.



All funds raised from the purchase of raffle tickets for the Misted Pines quilt (above) will go to the Josephine County Humane Society and Josephine County Search and Rescue.

Quilting in the Applegate Valley

Our pioneer forebears were thrifty and talented quilters, turning every scrap of fabric into warm bedding and beautiful quilts. A few pioneer quilts still exist, and some have been documented.

The most famous quilt in the Applegate Valley is the McKee Bridge Quilt, which depicts historic scenes in the upper Applegate Valley. It was made in 1989 by Pearl McKee Byrne, who was then 96 years old, as a fundraiser for the repair of the McKee Bridge. Pearl was born in 1894 on Big Butte Creek and lived to be 101. Other artists who helped make the quilt were Bonnie Connolly and Pearl's daughter Evelyn.

Heritage is important to most quilters, many of whom had a loving family member who helped them learn to sew or quilt, passing knowledge down through the generations. Today there are several Applegate Valley quilters, myself included, who are active with the Rogue Valley Piecemakers in Grants Pass.

Deb Wheeler was inspired by her grandmother and mother-in-law, who did all kinds of needlework. She is also grateful to have some quilts that are over a century old, passed down through the family of her husband, George Wheeler. The quilt tops were pieced in the 1920s in California, then were quilted in Jacksonville nearly a century later. The legacy lives on!

Lauri Dobbs, who was until recently the president of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers, learned to sew with the guidance of her mother and grandmother. Her mother sewed most of her clothes. Lauri was inspired by a coworker to try quilting. She took a class and then was hooked! Lauri makes both art quilts and traditional quilts.

If you own vintage quilts that were made in the Applegate Valley or by pioneers who landed here, please email me with their story and photos.

Liza Crosse • lizacrosse@comcast.net



A "view to remember" at Vista 222.

An exceptional community venue awaits your special occasions

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

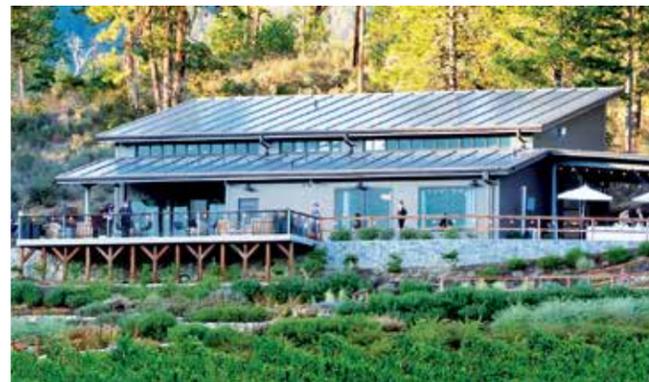
High on a verdant hill, overlooking acres of grapevines, glistening ponds, and forested mountains, lies Vista 222, a community event space in the Applegate Valley—where such spaces are few and far between—that is ready to accommodate your special occasions.

Owner Richard Braden, a self-described farmer for more than 60 years, dedicated two years to develop this unique property as a community event venue. Opened in 2021, Vista 222 hosts both indoor and outdoor events and offers a patio, covered outdoor areas, grassy areas, and three separate indoor areas, including an indoor bar—not to mention an extraordinary "view to

remember," an undeniable description on their website.

The Applegater will be holding its 30th birthday celebration there on June 2, but Vista 222 is also a venue for weddings, receptions, and a multitude of functions, from small and intimate to large and lavish. Due to its incomparable location and amenities, it has attracted folks from far and wide, including Alaska, Japan, New York, and San Diego.

Vista 222 is described as a "wine-centric" event venue for good reason. The property off Missouri Flat Road includes 72 acres, 23 of which are planted in pinot noir grapes and 25 acres in chardonnay grapes. Winemaker Greg Paneitz, a former



The Applegater's 30th Birthday Bash will be held at Vista 222. Join us for the festivities in this special setting.

owner of Wooldridge Creek Winery, has been partnering with Richard since 2010, when the property was operated as Serra Vineyards and managed by Richard's daughter. Greg works his magic to create rosé of pinot noir, chardonnay, and pinot noir wines under the Vista 222 label. All three of these elegant wines will be served at the Applegater's 30th Birthday Bash, and all three wines were personally tasted and approved by members of the Applegater Board of Directors.

In addition to the vineyards on the Vista 222 property, Richard's company, Padre Properties, owns vineyards in the Applegate and Illinois valleys, which also produce top-quality grapes.

Not only are weddings of all sizes celebrated at Vista 222, but also birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, baby showers, reunions, retirements, and celebrations of life. Private groups, nonprofits, and corporate and small businesses have

held events at this unique venue. A local hospital, for example, hosted a cocktail social for over 600 attendees, and a comedy show, with cocktails and a food truck, attracted more than 100 attendees. In the near future, Vista 222 will offer walking trails, hikes, and educational tours of the vineyard

property for groups. Carolyn Behrens, general manager, oversees event planning and execution and ensures that no details are overlooked for your event.

For the last few years, Vista 222 has sponsored an annual community Easter Eggstravaganza, which drew close to 900 attendees last year and offered live music, food, games, and egg hunts. This year, the event is scheduled for Saturday, March 30.

For more information about the Easter Eggstravaganza, or to book your special event, contact Carolyn at 541-450-9422 or admin@vista222.com, visit their website at vista222.com, or follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/Vista222](https://www.facebook.com/Vista222).

The Applegater hopes to see you at Vista 222 on June 2 to help celebrate our 30th birthday (see details on page 1). Come experience this unique venue and marvel at that "view to remember."

Barbara Holiday
barbara@applegater.org

POETRY CORNER

Twenty-four Hours

By H. Ní Aódagaín
leb.97527@gmail.com

The chickadees fly
from hawthorn to mulberry
in search of suet
hanging from a branch

Metal-gray and threatening
massive cloud banks
block the sun
turn the world two-toned
stark brown limbs of leafless trees
in silhouette against hills
of evergreen forest

We walk the land
spreading her ashes
in the special places
where she ran after fox and rabbit,
leapt from pond's edge
to retrieve the tossed ball

Beloved friend, she went so
fast, our hearts unprepared
for such sudden loss

In the midst of snowfall
green tips of daffodils emerge
purple violets line the garden path
willow shoots sprout up
from winter's debris

Six more weeks of winter
the wind ice cold against my face
I call the garden store
check on the arrival
of seed potatoes, inquire about
the availability of pea inoculant

The turning of the wheel
the march of the seasons
this morning the frost is thick
on the rooves, a blanket of diamonds
lit by the sun.

May you walk in Beauty.

H. Ní Aódagaín has been writing for the past 25 years. Her writings, which celebrate feminism, aging, spirituality, and land-based living, have appeared in numerous anthologies and publications such as *Woman of Power*, *Midwifery Today*, *Home Education Magazine*, and *Oregon Quarterly*. She is a proud member of Applegate Poets and is often inspired to write of her life in the Applegate Valley. To contact H. Ní Aódagaín, write hnauthor@gmail.com or go to hnauthor.com.

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

The Living

A novel by Annie Dillard

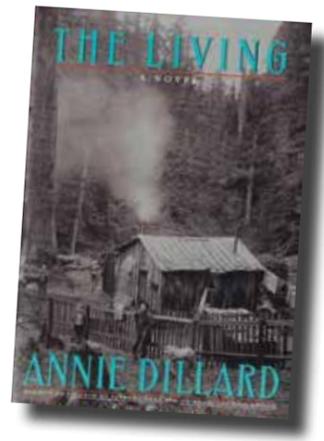
BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

Way back in 1974, my life did one of those drastic turns, the sort that brings a rush of unknowing what you might do next. I asked a good friend, who answered my question by handing me a book. Annie Dillard had just won the Pulitzer Prize with her *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Reading it, I promised myself I would read everything she might write in the future. I also honed my own writing skills, while at the same time accepting a job that would put food on the table.

In the years between then and now, I did buy all her books and also wrote several of my own. Two of hers, *Holy the Firm* and *The Living*, take place in the Pacific Northwest close to Bellingham, Lummi Island, and the San Juans. For a while, about five years, during which I lived on Discovery Bay in Washington State, I was close enough to drive to Bellingham and visit the places Dillard describes, especially in *The Living*.

A master of description, Dillard sets a scene we can recognize even from a day-trip on the Redwood Highway to Brookings. In 1855, though, quite a way north we might have encountered Ada Fishburn with her husband, Rooney, and their four children as they approached the wilderness settlement of Bellingham from schooner via the Bay. Dillard tells us: "It was the rough edge of the world, where the trees came smack down to the stones. The shore looked to Ada as if the corner of the continent had got torn off right here, sometime near yesterday, and the dark trees kept on growing like nothing happened. The ocean just filled in the tear and settled down" (pages 3-4).

The author continues with such vivid description all the way to the story's end. But in between—oh my. What an effort it is to claim a wilderness. Dillard gives us a knowledgeable and enticing peek into every aspect of this task. We have an opportunity to meet the Lummi native tribe and their leader, Chowitzit. The author is adept at character-building, and we experience the negotiations between cultures. Almost every human endeavor is part of this story, so that we witness the great opposites that make up the beauty, agony, loves, accomplishments, hopes,



violence, fears, and ecstasies of human and ecological strivings.

Until I read *The Living*, I didn't know that our settlers might live inside a tree, one like the Pacific Cedar or the Coastal Redwood. I did know many children died from causes I would not have considered. "Nettie died when she was four, of an earache that leaked into her brain. Lura Rush bade Rooney blow pipe smoke into Nettie's ear, for that was the only remedy they knew, and she had not squirmed, only looked off, but it failed. Rooney especially took it hard, for he was wild about the girl, and Ada still worried during the second or third year afterwards that Rooney would never find the heart to keep on and keep up."

But this historical novel is more about living than dying. It's a living that absorbs the wild edge of things. Some don't survive that kind of living. Others create a new land from its challenges. The first time I visited Sterlingville Cemetery, one grave marker pretty much took my breath away. A whole family was buried there, including "Baby 1, Baby 2, Baby 3..." As I recall there were as many as five babies who died before they were given names. I thought of them when reading the paragraph about little Nettie and her earache and wondered if her dad, Rooney, finally internalized his wild feelings deeply enough to help create a wider world.

Annie Dillard tells a story of the Pacific Northwest that lives even now through the living descendants of people who grappled with the Wild and absorbed its strength. The people of the Applegate did that, too, and continue to this day as *The Living*.

The Living and other books by Annie Dillard can be found at local libraries, bookstores, and on the internet.

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

A Book Faire to Remember

BY DORANNE LONG

Spring is just around the corner, and so is A Book Faire to Remember.

On Friday, April 19, from 5-8 pm, AIM (Author's Innovative Marketing) will host the book fair at the Grants Pass Museum of Art at 229 SW G Street. This is your opportunity to purchase signed copies of books from a variety of genres: historical novels, nonfiction, mysteries with a western theme, crime-solving RVers (recreational vehicle users), self-help for aches and pains, wildlife stories, and even an RV cookbook.

Meet the authors

Author and poet Diana Coogle will share her newest work, *From Friend to Wife to Widow - Six Brief Years*. The vivid poems share the growth of Diana's and her husband's love from the time they were just friends to their marriage and then to his death—from friend to wife to widow in six years.

Fellow prolific poet Gary Lark will also participate. In *River of Solace*, time

twists through the lives in the pages like a deep, dark root. The spells Lark casts are immediate and lasting. The echoes of the poems are haunting.

Leslie Ghiglieri wrote *The Decision to Kill: A True Crime Story of a Teenage Killer and the Mother Who Loved Him* to fulfill the wish of a friend, who asked her to document the story of her husband's 1986 murder in Murphy, Oregon. This book not only shares intimate details of the crime but, more importantly, offers a surprising message of encouragement for those whose loved ones suffer from addiction and mental health disorders.

Carole MacRobert Steele has written *A Pictorial History of Highway 99, The Scenic Route...Redding, California, to Portland, Oregon*, with 650 photographic images of scenes along the highway from the early 1900s to the 1960s.

The historical novel, *Life Along the Applegate Trail: A Tale of Grit and*

Determination, was written by Linda Lochard after she traveled 31 of 50 days via wagon on the Applegate Trail. She invites us to "step into the story, smell the dust, and walk until your shoes are no longer. Whatever you do, whatever happens, keep moving."

Anne Schroeder is an award-winning author of historical novels, short fiction, and a memoir. Her historical novels include themes of inspiration, grit, loss, hope, and enduring love. As a fifth-generation Californian, Anne's love of the West was fueled by stories of bandits and hangings, of her great-grandfather and his neighbors working together to blast the Norwegian Grade in southern California out of solid rock, of Native American caves, and of women who made their own way.

Spirit Bow, by Jim Lettis, captures life in November 1819, when 11-year-old Sean O'Malley sets out on a fateful hunt with his grandfather. In a violent storm, Sean fires at what he believes to be a deer, but what turns out to be a young Native warrior on a vision quest. Grandpa says there is nothing they can do for the

dying boy and takes the boy's Spirit Bow. Grandpa then tells his grandson, "Nice shot." These simple words will haunt Sean for years.

Just released, *Charlie's Secrets* is the sixth Mac 'n' Ivy murder mystery by Lorena M. Courtney. She is the award-winning author of 50 published novels of mystery and romance. Most are of the lighthearted, cozy variety of mystery.

Tales from Gorilla Girl, a fascinating and heartfelt memoir, is about Ann Southcombe's life dedicated to her love and caring for animals. Her passion has stretched over 40 years and has taken her to the wilds of the Amazon, the undersea world of Hawaii, and the beautiful, forested mountains of Oregon. She raised seven captive gorillas; she was the teacher to Michael, the companion of Koko, the gorilla, and to Chantek, the signing orangutan.

For more information, visit aimforwriters.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

Doranne Long
541-643-9289

doranne@yourbodybook.com

~ FINE PRINT ~

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

Our Mission

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

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

Photo Requirements

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

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 on this page).

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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:

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

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Next deadline: May 1

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Thanks to Linda Kappen for the shot of the lovely Golden Delicious apple blossoms on her property in the Applegate.

Have a photo for the Summer 2024 *Applegater*? Email it to gater@applegater.org.

Corrections

The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Barbara Holiday at barbara@applegater.org.

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Editorial Calendar

| ISSUE | DEADLINE |
|---|------------|
| SUMMER (June - Aug) <i>Fire - Water</i> | May 1 |
| 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 |

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— Applegate Library — Check out mobile hotspots!



— Ruch Library — Full STEAM ahead!

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

Did you know that, through the Jackson County Library System (JCLS) Connect program, library users 18 years and older in good standing can check out mobile hotspots for up to two weeks? And JCLS provides free Wi-Fi access in all 15 branches, including the Applegate Library—where it's warm and dry!

Upcoming events

Preparing your Digital Life for your Death, 10-11 am Friday, March 1. Have you ever wondered what happens to your digital accounts after death? Or how your loved ones will get access to those accounts to save precious data, such as photos and videos? Or how they would close them after you pass on? This program will help you and your loved ones take practical steps to prepare your digital legacy.

Wild and Woolly Felting, 8+ years. 3-5 pm Thursday, March 28. Let's celebrate spring and our pollinators making adorable needle-felted bees! This fun and easy fiber arts workshop will explore the techniques of needle felting, a dry method of felting that uses a special needle, loose wool, and a foam surface to create 3-D sculptures. All materials provided. Class is led by local fiber artist Corbin Brashear of Wild and Woolly Feltworks. Her work can be viewed at wildandwoolyfelt.com.

Second Annual Applegate Music Festival, 3+ years. 12-4 pm Saturday, March 30. Love piano music? We will have that! Love guitar, violin, and cello? We will have that too! Browse the library, pick up your holds, and listen to local musicians play various instruments and songs. Whatever your pleasure, these artistic, fun, and talented musicians are sure to send you on your way with a smile on your face and a song in your heart. And maybe even a new book!

- 12-12:45 pm: Singer-songwriter-keyboardist Noah
- 12:50-1 pm: Violinist Malila
- 1-1:45 pm: Classical pianist Debbie Lyons
- 1:50-2 pm: Violinist Malila

- 2-2:45 pm: Cello player Lisa Truelove
- 3-3:45 pm: Singer-songwriter-guitarist Cole Cullen

Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardener presents "Starting a New Vegetable Garden," 18+ years. 12:30-2 pm Saturday, April 6. The best time to start is *now* (any time of the year—even the dead of winter). Soil is the number one ingredient. Beyond that, well, that's up to what you have at hand. Whether starting from seeds or seedlings is also a consideration depending upon how much work you want to do and how much time you have. John Kobal, an OSU-certified Master Gardener, will discuss the ways to start a new vegetable garden.

Card Making, 14+ years. 1-2:30 pm Saturday, April 20. Learn the art of making your own greeting card. Come join us for a fun and creative "make and take" class and leave with your own handmade card!

Make a Spring Flower Crown, 8+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, May 9. Learn how to make a flower crown using all natural materials. You will be able to choose from a variety of fresh spring greenery and flowers to create your own nature-inspired adornment.

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. A Digital Services representative 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 11-11:30 am on Fridays.

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

BY MEGAN PINDER

This spring our focus is on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). In addition to the events listed below, we will be launching the Ruch Seed Library. Just like books, seeds should be free and accessible to all!

Spring events

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, 0-5 years. 10:30 am-noon Thursdays. Discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! Open to young children and their families and caregivers.

Preschool Storytime, 3-5 years. 10:30-11 am Tuesdays (except May 28). Bring your preschoolers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library.

Computer and Tech Help, all ages. 10 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays and 2-4:30 pm Thursdays. Meet with a digital services specialist by appointment or drop in.

Tween/Teen Movie Hangout, 10-14 years. 3:30-6 pm first and third Thursdays. Stop by Ruch Library to enjoy a movie (and popcorn) with other tweens and teens! There will be time to discuss movie options and vote for a favorite before showtime at 4 pm.

Strawberry DNA Extraction, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 2. With only a few household items, you can extract deoxyribonucleic acid from strawberries! Learn how—and live your CSI dreams—in this hands-on program.

Author Talk: *Life Along the Applegate Trail*, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 9. Local author Linda Lochard will discuss her novel, *Life Along the Applegate Trail: A Tale of Grit and Determination*.

Wildflowers and Rare Plants of the Applegate, 12+ years. 2-3 pm Saturday, March 16. The Applegate is known for its incredible botanical biodiversity. Local experts Suzie Savoie and Luke Ruediger will share information, photographs, and species range maps from across the Applegate watershed, including endemic plants from the region that grow nowhere else on earth.

Full STEAM Ahead Saturday Matinee Series. 1-3:30 pm fourth Saturdays. Join us for three Full STEAM Ahead movies: *Hidden Figures* on March 23 (PG, 9+ years), *The Imitation Game* (PG-13, 11+ years) on April 27, and *Wall-E* (G, all ages) on May 25. Doors open at 1 pm, showtime is 1:10 pm. Popcorn provided!

Special Storytime: Become a Boxitect! 3+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 30. Listen to the story "Boxitects" by Kim

Smith—and then create something magical of your own with a cardboard box.

Seed Saving for Gardeners, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 6. To kick off the gardening season and the launch of the Ruch Seed Library, farmer and founder of Siskiyou Seeds, Don Tipping, will teach seed-saving techniques for garden standbys.

Make Your Own Silicone Bouncy Ball with Marissa Shepherd, 12+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 13. How are plastics made? Why do plastics take so long to degrade? Come explore these questions and more as you make your own silicone bouncy ball with Marissa Shepherd, professor of chemistry at Rogue Community College.

Fuel Mitigation Close to Home: Defensible Space and Home Hardening with Local Fire Experts, 18+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 20. Local fire departments and risk reduction experts will discuss how to create a defensible space in and around your home, as well as other fuel mitigation strategies.

Molecular Gastronomy, 18+ years. Noon-1 pm Wednesday, April 24. Explore kitchen chemistry through molecular gastronomy, a branch of food science that focuses on the physical and chemical processes that arise when cooking. We will conduct some hands-on edible experiments!

Noxious (Invasive) Plants of Southern Oregon: Identification and Treatment Options, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, May 4. Local expert and botanist Barbara Mumblo will teach us how to recognize invasive plants and give us some treatment strategies.

Watch Me Grow: A Pea's Journey from Seed to Leaf, 5+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, May 11. Observe a pea's transformation from seed to seedling! We will have examples of pea seedlings in various stages of growth for kids to explore, and they will take home their own peas in a clear container so they can follow a pea's journey.

Trebuchet vs Catapult, 9+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, May 30. In this program, kids will learn the difference between a catapult and a trebuchet, will make one of them, and will have an opportunity for some friendly competition.

Megan Pinder

Ruch Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
541-494-3284
mpinder@jcls.org
7919 Highway 238



Grand opening ceremony of the new Williams Library Branch in 2023.

Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library — History of Williams Library Branch

BY BRANDACE ROJO

The old Williams Library structure opened in 1977. Due to lack of running water or a restroom, that temporary building was not intended to be the permanent home of the Williams library.

When the library district was formed in 2017, Josephine County gifted the structure to the library district. The land belongs to Three Rivers School District and, for years, the library operated on school property rent-free thanks to a generous partnership! That former

Williams branch was gifted back to Three Rivers School District in 2023 and is now the home of a Head Start facility.

The new Williams branch opened its doors in fall 2023, featuring running water, a restroom, expanded books and other materials, updated technology, including broadband internet, a designated children's area, 1,000 square feet of library use, and ADA parking.

Funding for the new Williams library branch came from local donors and other funders, including Four Way

Community Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, A Greater Applegate, Roundhouse Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, and a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) via the Oregon State Legislature and former Representative Lily Morgan.

Fun facts about Williams Library

The Josephine Community Library record for most books checked out at one time is held by a Williams branch patron. Brian B. checked out 953 items in one visit last September during The Great Escape program, when Williams library staff and volunteers asked the community to check out as many books as possible. In order to lessen the load of books that needed to be moved, patrons were asked to keep the books at home until the new branch opened.

Lucy Fitzpatrick was the first Williams librarian in the 1970s, operating out of a

small room at the Williams Grange with the help of assistant Irene Shampaine.

In the early 1980s the Williams Branch became the only library in the county to sport a hitching post in the parking lot—an addition requested during a summer when readers arrived on horseback and had only the bumper of the librarian's car to tie their mounts to.

During the 1990s, Kathryn Roether, a former librarian, opened a library in the straw-bale studio behind her house. It was open to the public at certain times, had a library-like checkout system, and was a very busy place! In 2016, her daughter, Evelyn Roether, was Williams branch manager for a period of time.

Virtual communication booth

Community members can reserve the new communication booth for virtual meetings at the Williams branch
See *WILLIAMS LIBRARY*, page 21.

What does our history mean to us today?

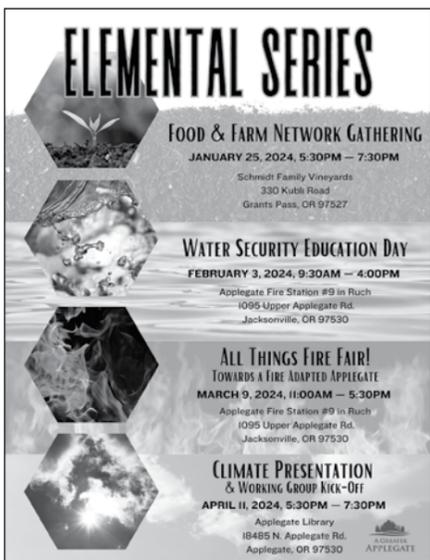
BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

My read of Applegate history—from the Dakubetede and other bands of Indigenous people who inhabited this place, to the early families who settled here and the waves of people who have come since—is a story of resilience, adaptability, and a rural culture that has persisted in an ever-changing world. What does that mean for us here in 2024?

At A Greater Applegate that has meant focusing on the elements—earth, water, fire, and air—the essential constituents of life. At our Annual Food & Farm Network gathering in January, we talked with farmers, ranchers, chefs, wineries, restaurateurs, and our country stores about how to make locally grown food more available and accessible to Applegate Valley residents. This includes better support for the Williams Farmers Market and the Applegate Evening Market, increasing farmer-to-farmer communication, developing the Community Food Hub to serve farmers, distributors, and consumers, and looking at infrastructure and resource needs for those who are running farm and food businesses. These efforts move us toward a more resilient local food system and rural economy.

In February, the Water Security Education Day brought presentations and discussions around household and landscape-level methods for conserving and storing water. This event was cohosted by the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and A Greater Applegate. Guest teachers from the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District talked about irrigation management and efficiency, Siskiyou Permaculture presented a program on building gray-water systems, Jim Reiland and Roarke Ball talked about how to increase water storage systems, and we also heard from the Water Master's office on the current state of water affairs. It was a highly informative and engaging day, and we hope to make a recording of the presentations available online soon.

March brings us to the All Things Fire Fair!, an all-day community event that will help us move toward a fire-adapted Applegate. The Forest and Fire Working Group is planning a mix of informational tables, presentations, and



In 2024, A Greater Applegate is focusing on presentations and discussions about the four elements of nature.

live demonstrations focusing on wildfire and community preparedness. The event will take place from 11 am-5:30 pm Saturday, March 9, at the Applegate Valley Fire District #9 in Ruch. You can expect a family-friendly atmosphere and a day full of demonstrations and presentations on topics such as home hardening and defensible space, prescribed burning, safe pile burning, and the Douglas fir die-off.

Please stay tuned to agreaterapplegate.org and social media channels for a complete schedule and list of participating organizations.

Finally, as spring is in the air, A Greater Applegate is collaborating with the Regional and Local Project of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) to explore climate trends and what might be done to acknowledge, adapt, and address the implications of climate change in the Applegate Valley, including whether there is interest in developing a regular working group on this important topic. Please join us at the Applegate Library in Applegate at 5:30 pm Thursday, April 11, for the first meeting of this group. It will feature a presentation by SOCAN's Alan Journet on current research and projections, followed by discussion.

All of these "elemental" events make it clear that our beloved valley has many assets with which to create new opportunities and overcome challenges as we continue to learn, grow, and adapt together. We are continuing to build relationships and networks. We have people with skills, knowledge, innovation, and creativity. We can harness the collective power and resourcefulness of our local organizations and businesses, our pride in place, and community spirit. We can work with our natural resources and treasure the beautiful environment that surrounds us. The people of the Applegate Valley today love where they live, and I imagine that is a thread that connects us to those who have lived here before us. Change is inevitable, but together we have a say in those changes and ways to not only sustain our rural life but also to strengthen our community and improve our local economy.

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

McKee Bridge Historical Society—our 25th year

BY PAUL TIPTON AND LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge is 107 years old this year, but still in great shape because of the community's diligent care over the years, through floods and windstorms and wear and tear. For six decades, local folks, in coordination with the Jackson County Roads Department, have come together to fund and perform needed work, like replacing the collapsed roof after the heavy snow that led to the Christmas Floods of 1964.

In 1989 the Lions Club and Save McKee Bridge Committee members joined US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees in a "Shake-a-thon." They rived (split) 6,000 Port Orford cedar roofing shakes the old-fashioned way—by hand. The BLM donated the tree. In 1995, the rotted and infested siding was entirely stripped and replaced at a cost of \$89,000, none of that coming from taxpayers. Last month we replaced 19 deteriorated planks in the long, suspended approach. The walking surface is again smooth and even.

The upkeep is constant, but so is the community's dedication. With the kind of support we've had over the years, it's possible that your great-grandchildren will be able to visit McKee Bridge and experience its unique beauty and history.

McKee descendants, in particular Evelyn Williams and her daughter, Janeen Sathre, are still intensely involved in safeguarding this historic covered bridge.

In January of 1999, Evelyn gathered interested community members to form MBHS and register as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in order to apply for grants and to accept tax-deductible donations. Charter member Barb Mumblo still serves as our secretary! Their foresight allowed MBHS to do its part when McKee Bridge was closed in 2012 due to major restoration that would cost over \$600,000. Consider: It cost around \$6,000 to build the bridge in 1917!

MBHS wrote grants, raised funds locally, and exceeded the 10 percent match of \$60,000 required by a Federal Highway Administration grant. The community championed our work, even though the bridge was closed to pedestrians for over two years.

You can see an exhibit covering McKee Bridge's 107 years at the Jacksonville



Huge trees carried by flood waters caused extensive damage in February 1927.



The roof was replaced after the Christmas Floods of 1964.

Library throughout February (with perhaps a few days left when this *Applegater* comes out), and then at the Ruch Library in spring. This exhibit will be displayed on the bridge from June through September.

In May MBHS President Laura Ahearn will present "A Century in Big Applegate" as part of the Windows in Time series hosted by Jackson County Library Services and Southern Oregon Historical Society. This never-before-told story of the Native American women of Watkins is based on original sources and inspired by the stories and keepsakes of direct descendants. Dates are May 1 at Medford Library, both in person and online, and May 8 at Ashland Library. Both programs start at noon. Register at jcls.libcal.com/event/11425700 (May 1) or jcls.libcal.com/event/11735148 (May 8).

We'll announce more 2024 events on Facebook and our website. You can sign up as a volunteer, become a member, or make a donation at mckeebridge.org.

Paul Tipton
ptipton4u2c@gmail.com
Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

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

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." - Albert Einstein

Happy Earth Day

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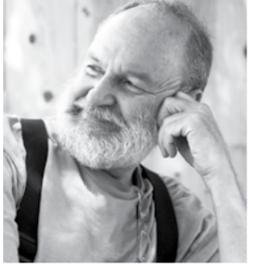
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THE STARRY SIDE

Space and time

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

One reason I love all the seasons is that by the end of each one, I'm looking forward to the next one.

Another reason is the way the seasons play with space—on our own planet and beyond. Our planet Earth is constantly spinning at 1,000 miles per hour. At the same time, it's traveling around the sun at 67,000 miles per hour, which we all know takes a year as we move through four seasons. At the same time, the sun is in orbit, too, around the Milky Way's Galactic Center, at a rate of 500,000 miles per hour. And the Milky Way itself is 100,000 light-years across! (A light-year is the distance light travels in a whole year.) And! it takes us 240 million years—960 million seasons—to make one round inside our galaxy.

So, what does our sky look like this season? The Spring Triangle rises in the east until it's overhead; in summer it will slowly begin setting in the west. It's made up of three great, bright stars:

1. Regulus is first to rise in March and the highest. To find Regulus, look north along the Big Dipper's upper two stars, then follow that line to the east quite a ways.

2. Next, follow the arch of the Big Dipper's handle to Arcturus, the second star in the triangle.

3. Then look farther to the right and a little downwards to find bright Spica, the triangle's third star. (These last two rise later than Regulus.) This triangle is easy

to see; it's first a hint at spring and then a harbinger of warm weather and summer fun as it swings overhead.

If you've noticed how the Big Dipper is on its "tail," or handle, completely up-and-down in the north, now you can find Cassiopeia opposite the North Star. Both the Big Dipper and Cassiopeia move, with all the other stars, counterclockwise: when you're looking

north, they all rise in the east and set in the west. You'll see the Dipper on top of the North Star and Cassiopeia below in a while.

And notice how high the North Star is from our place on the planet. The farther north you are, the higher it is in the sky. Conversely, in the southern hemisphere, the southern pole star, Polaris Australis, gets higher in the sky the farther south you are. Now imagine being on the equator. The north star and Australis sit right on the horizon lines!

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

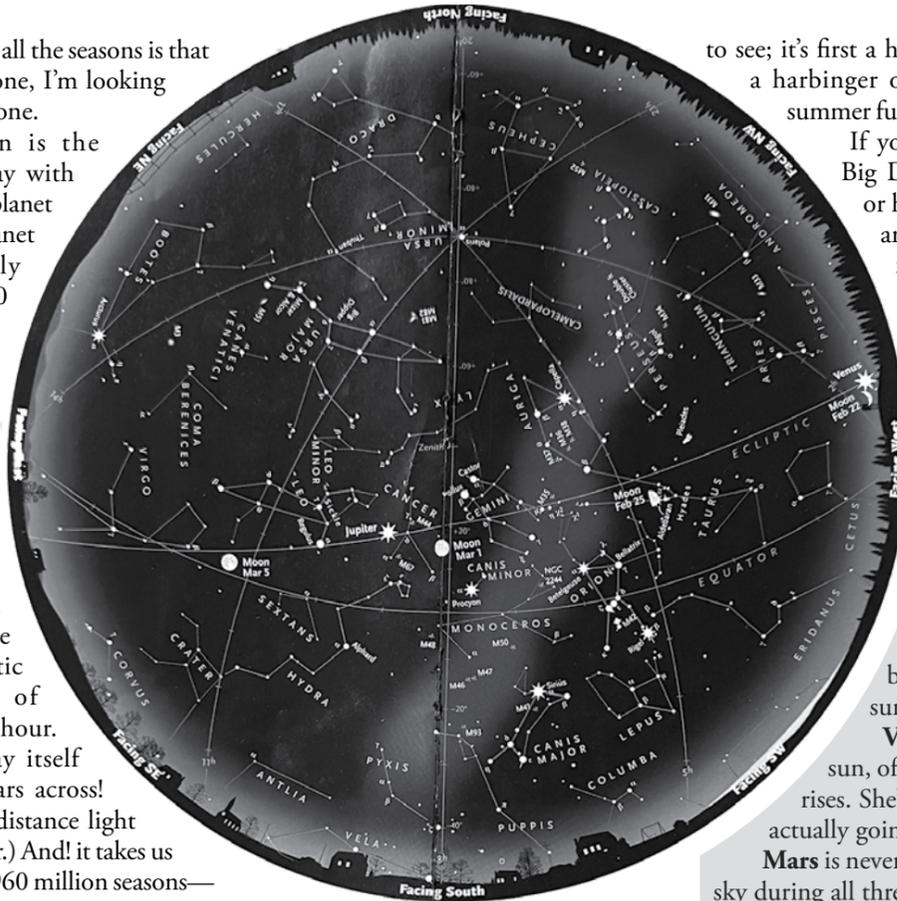


Image: Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

— OF NOTE —

Planets

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun, but not the brightest because he's so small. Look for Mercury at dusk in March, near the sun, and also in May—but he's out of sight in April.

Venus, almost always our brightest "star" (planet), is also close to the sun, of course, so, like Mercury, is seen only after or before the sun sets or rises. She's too close to the sun for us to see in March (from our view, she's actually going behind the sun), April, and May. I'm trying not to cry.

Mars is never really bright but who else is so red? She's in the beautiful morning sky during all three months: March, April, and May.

Jupiter is the biggest planet, and often the brightest, to go around the sun. He's so big that 1,300 Earths could fit in him! Look for him at dusk in April and dawn in June, but not in May.

Saturn is only a medium-bright planet and can be almost anywhere. In March, April, and May, he's in our morning skies.

Meteors

The Lyrids in April and the Eta Aquariid meteor shower in May will be seriously marred by a southern-hemisphere orientation. Even the June Arietids peak during the morning. Daytime is not a good time to watch meteors. So forget them this season. This happened last year too! Sorry.

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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Watts Toppin Dam, on Williams Creek just downstream of the Powell Creek convergence. Photo: APWC.

Putting federal funds to work in the Applegate

BY NATHAN GEHRES

Many residents of the Applegate Valley, including myself, have the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a neighbor. This is unsurprising, as approximately 70 percent of the Applegate Valley is public land, with the BLM responsible for the lion's share. As with any good neighbor, the agency is taking an active role in maintaining, and even improving, the amazing natural landscape that defines the Applegate.

One way in which the BLM supports local ecology is through Title II grants offered through the Secure Rural Schools Program. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) successfully secured four such Title II grants in the last round for the projects described below.

Provolt Recreation Site (PRS). Williams Creek will be the setting for three of the Title II-funded projects. At PRS, APWC will be installing approximately three instream log structures and five to six log structures on the streambank, involving 120 harvested trees (from elsewhere at PRS) at sites where the streambank currently lacks tree cover. These logjams will slow the flowrate of the stream, retain spawning gravels, provide shaded habitat, and build pools that provide cool-water refuges. This will help alleviate the high summertime water temperatures that reach the threshold of what native fish can tolerate.

Watts Topping Fish Passage Improvement Project. Further upstream, this project will construct a roughened channel, basically a rock ramp for fish, over the existing dam to improve access to over 23 miles of habitat for migrating fish. This project has multiple benefits, including enhancing irrigation efficiency for local farmers by upgrading aging infrastructure with modern underground piping and directly improving access to upstream habitat for all aquatic species.

Mungers Creek is a headwaters tributary of Williams Creek. Chas Rogers has developed a project that will be installing approximately ten logjam structures and boulders to increase the quality of the instream habitat in much the same way that the PRS project will. All of these efforts seek to continue the investment in Williams Creek and the species that it supports. The projects should help increase the recruitment of coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, trout, and lamprey to Williams Creek. All of the Williams Creek Watershed would benefit from more spawning salmon that would lead to more salmon carcasses that infuse nutrients from the ocean environment into the creek and surrounding environment. The community will also benefit economically from these projects that will increase the



Caleb Galloway, APWC riparian restoration project manager, and students from Jefferson Elementary School in the Medford School District at a "Salmon Day" event at Cantrall Buckley Park.

production of a valuable sport fish in the long term, while in the short term, the implementation of this project will provide work for heavy equipment contractors and laborers. Protecting and restoring Williams Creek has always been a high priority and has only increased in importance as our local water resources become ever more strained under surging demand and drier conditions.

Cantrall Buckley Park. The final APWC Title II-funded project involves working with local students at this well-loved community park located just outside Ruch on the Applegate River. The park includes both banks of the river, and it is one of only four access points for the public between Applegate Lake and the Rogue River.

Aside from the valuable community resource that the park represents, it is also the location of APWC's Applegate Outdoor School program that serves hundreds of students each spring. This Title II project aims to remove blackberries and other invasive plants from the park and replace them with native plantings. APWC's Grow Youth program will assist with the removal of the invasives, as well as with trail construction and maintenance with Ruch Outdoor Community School students and various other local school groups. This program provides students with valuable opportunities to learn hands-on skills at a young age that can spark interest and potentially be applied in a later career. These local students will be taking an important role in restoring a well-used park that benefits the entire community.

APWC is very appreciative of the funding opportunities that the BLM provides through the Title II Secure Rural Schools Program and the good work that it funds. To learn more about our projects and partnerships, please visit our website at applegatepartnership.org, email us, or give us a call at 541-899-9989.

Nathan Gehres
nathan@apwc.info

Igniting the flame: A chronicle of Applegate Valley Fire District's storied legacy

BY CHRIS WOLFARD

Since its humble beginnings in 1977, Applegate Valley Fire District #9 (AVFD) has stood as a beacon of community resilience, with volunteers forming the backbone of its firefighting force. Initiated by the Applegate Lions Club, this grassroots effort initially relied on CB radios and phone trees for communication.



Leadership transitions occurred with Brett Fillis taking the helm in 1996, followed by Chief Mike McLaughlin in 2016. On August 1, 2023, after 20 years as the fire district's operations chief, Chris Wolfard assumed the role of fire chief, showcasing the district's commitment to cultivating

leadership from within. The pivotal moment arrived in 1980, birthing the Applegate Lions Volunteer Fire Department and setting the stage for the district's expansion. Ron Yarbrough took the reins as the inaugural fire chief in 1981, propelling AVFD into a new era. Station 1 was constructed in 1982, a testament to the dedication of Chief Yarbrough and his handful of volunteers servicing 136 square miles.

Success burgeoned, as evidenced by a significant success on the Insurance Services Office test in 1982, leading to reduced insurance rates for residents. Station 2 and the acquisition of the first fire engine in 1983 marked tangible progress. By 1984, annexation efforts added 45 more square miles, expanding the district's coverage to a substantial 181 square miles.

The late 1980s saw transformative growth, courtesy of a voter-approved tax base and temporary levies. Thanks to much hard work by fire district leaders and volunteers, Stations 3 (headquarters), 4, 5, 6, and 7 found their places on the map, strategically situated to optimize coverage. The district flourished with each station's incorporation, enabling additional staff positions and making way for operations chief and district office manager roles in 1992.

The financial landscape shifted in 1996 with Ballot Measure 47 and a substantially reduced tax base, resulting in a substantial reduction of fire district funding and necessitating budget adjustments. In response, voters approved a five-year Operations Levy in 1998, securing vital funding. The subsequent years witnessed several successful levy renewals, with the latest in 2023 receiving 72 percent approval by voters, ensuring the district's financial stability and our ability to serve the community effectively.

Presently, Applegate Valley Fire District boasts a robust team: ten full-time employees, one part-time employee, 24 volunteers, and 12 student/seasonal firefighters. As we reflect on our journey, we celebrate the unwavering dedication of past and present volunteers who have tirelessly served the Applegate Valley community.

Join the legacy—we're seeking additional volunteers!

In the spirit of community and service, AVFD extends an invitation to individuals passionate about making a difference. As we commemorate our rich history, we recognize the need for new volunteers to carry the torch forward.

Whether you're a seasoned firefighter or looking to contribute to community safety, your dedication is valued. Join us in preserving the Applegate Valley's legacy of resilience and community service. Together, let's continue the tradition of being the first responders our neighbors can rely on.

If you're ready to be a part of this storied legacy and contribute to the safety and well-being of our community, we encourage you to explore the rewarding experience of volunteering with AVFD. Contact us today to learn more about how you can play a vital role in shaping the future of community safety in the Applegate Valley. Your commitment matters, and together we can ensure a safer and more resilient future for all. Please consider calling AVFD today at 541-899-1050 to start your firefighting adventure.

Chris Wolfard

Fire Chief

Applegate Valley Fire District #9
cwolfard@applegatefd.com

HISTORY BITS: AVFD



This photo appeared in the July-August 2005 issue of the Applegater along with an article about the Applegate Valley Fire District's 25th anniversary.

THEY LIVE AMONG US

Karla and Josh Self partner to create audiobook

BY DIANA COOGLE

With this interview with Karla Self, author of *The Spaces That Hold You*, the *Applegater* returns to a column we have run in the past, “They Live Among Us.” Here, Diana Coogle interviews Karla and, in a sidebar, her son, Josh Self, who produced the audio version of the novel.

I understand you were 65 when the novel came out. What made you decide to write a novel at this time in your life?

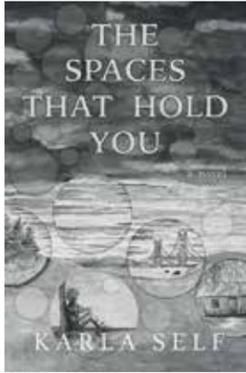
Karla: I have always jotted down thoughts and ideas to clarify my understanding of deep subjects. While I was taking an online fiction writing course at UCLA, my instructor encouraged me, describing my writing style as having a Southern influence, with winding sentences. One textbook suggested to simply sit down and write—so I did—and that the story would unveil itself—and it did. Those words became *The Spaces That Hold You*.

Can you describe your experience writing the book?

Karla: Incredibly, I started putting words to the page 20 years ago. I had no schedule, just wrote whenever I had time, with my family and career keeping most of my attention. I got serious about writing once I retired. When the pandemic hit, I worked each weekday, six to eight hours per day, for about a year, then took another year to rewrite and edit the manuscript. I enjoyed the intensity of thoughts and ideas flowing to the page once I dedicated myself to it. My husband and family were my informal writing group, reading my drafts and giving me feedback and encouragement.

Tell me about the central character, the boy, Levi.

Karla: The inspiration for Levi came from a boy I knew in my childhood. Because of him I understood even then that some children didn’t have enough food, consistent shelter, or parents to provide for them. My mother, who owned



a beauty shop and who was kind to this boy, inspired the character of Sydney. The kindness of others to Levi is a central theme.

How did your career in social services influence this book?

Karla: Through my work, I saw the pervasiveness of mental health issues and drug addiction; the novel is the story of a boy living

in poverty with his mentally ill mother. In my work, I noticed the blank in the “Father’s Name” space on many children’s birth certificates; in my book Levi longs for his unknown father. Through my work I saw the devastation young people face when things go wrong in their lives and the hope they can find in spite of it; my work helped define this theme for the novel. As a society, we have learned that untreated mental illness can lead to self-medication with drugs and alcohol and that those in poverty are less likely to receive treatment—thus, more drug use, addiction, overdoses, and homelessness, all of which affect the quality of life of children and families in our communities. I felt it was compelling to tell the story from the first-person view of the child. I thought of *Forrest Gump*, telling his beautiful story in his own words. I love that it is Levi, the young protagonist, sharing his own story.

Why did you place the novel in the Central Valley of California in the 1960s?

Karla: Having grown up in the Central Valley in the ’60s, I knew the culture of that time and place. And I think it is important for us to remember a time when we didn’t have information at our fingertips. I loved thinking through the manual process of things—how the characters pick up a telephone attached to a wall and dial a number or ask the operator to connect a call. I remember it well.

Can you elaborate on Amazon.com’s comment about the “underpinnings

of racism” in the town where the story is set?

Karla: Kelsey is a fictional town that was built by Dust Bowl migrants from the Southern states seeking work in the fields of California. The remnants of Jim Crow still held tight in some families, showing up in words and fists used against black and brown people. Young Levi witnesses this racism in the attitudes of a crowd, from indifference to enthusiasm, as they watch a black man being beaten simply because he moved too close to town, and again when some of Levi’s buddies make his best friend, Chance, a Native American, the butt of their jokes.

Do you have other books you would like to write?

Karla: Yes, absolutely. I have several themes floating around. My grandfather was a great storyteller and an inspiration. We wonder how much he embellished his stories. That is the joy of writing fiction: it can turn a weed into a flower in a flash. Historical fiction is of great interest to me, as well as books for young readers. As a writer, I want to make a positive difference in the world and plan on doing so for the rest of my life.

The Audiobook Process

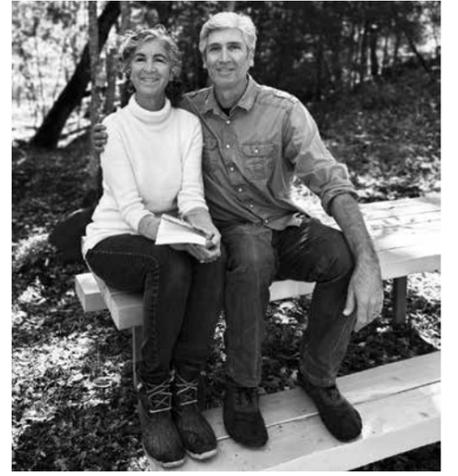
Karla’s son, Josh Self, narrated and produced the audio version of The Spaces That Hold You. Here he discusses the process.

Though I have had experience in front of a microphone and am an avid audiobook listener, I hadn’t had any experience with audiobook narration, so I wasn’t sure it was the best idea for me to narrate my mom’s wonderful book. But she asked me to audition as narrator, so I recorded a section of the book for her. She thought my voice perfectly represented the voice of Levi, and I agreed to do it.

There was a learning curve about the technical aspects. Online information was helpful. It is less about technical expertise and more about challenging the status quo and taking ownership of how the story should be told, which is with the utmost, heartfelt authenticity.

I listened to my mom read the prologue. That gave me an idea of how the story flowed in her mind. Then I did a few short test runs, then recorded the book, then worked closely with my mom to ensure clarity and accuracy both to the book and to her intent.

The Southern accent I use for Levi came from my childhood, when I listened



Karla Self and her son, Josh, collaborated on Karla’s audiobook.

Your bio says you live in the “Pacific Northwest,” but *Applegater* readers would like to know if you live in the Applegate.

Karla: I live in the mountains above the Rogue Valley and am in the beautiful Applegate Valley often, as I have family there. I always pick up an *Applegater* and peruse it from cover to cover.

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

to and mimicked the accents of my grandparents, who were Dust Bowl migrants to California.

To make an audial recording of a book, you need a computer with recording software, a good microphone, and a quiet space without background noise. I turned a closet into a makeshift studio. My kids gave me quiet time when I was “in session.” I learned to edit and then digitally master the final recording to industry specifications. It was a solid two-month project: six weeks for recording, two more going back and forth with my mom, working through edits.

Professionally, it has been my mission to make a living out of living. I have had a fulfilling career thus far, from plant manager to strategic executive-level management. My expertise is in leadership, with a passion for people and the planet. I enjoy helping people find the best versions of themselves. This approach tends to build strong teams with the competence and confidence to step into the unknown.

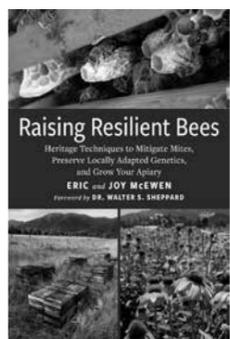
My wife and I live in Ruch with our two children. We’ve been living here, in paradise, eight years now.

Edited by Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

Raising Resilient Bees

By Eric and Joy McEwen

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX



The spirit of agrarianism that creates a passion for harmony—on a piece of land and in the wider ecosystems—is at the heart of the book, *Raising Resilient Bees*.

A quote about agrarianism, from essayist and poet Wendell Berry, graced the wall of the store that authors Eric and Joy McEwen used to own: “It’s not so much a philosophy as a practice, an attitude, a loyalty, and a passion all based in a close connection with the land. It results in a sound local economy in which producers and consumers are neighbors and in which nature herself becomes the standard for work and production.” The authors believe that this is the culture of beekeeping.

The McEwens espouse two concepts. “First, to contribute to the long-term

viability of the honeybee as a member of nature and a deliverer of great environmental benefits to the ecosystem at large, and second, to contribute to the stability of beekeeping as a craft, a livelihood, and a key component of the larger agrarian landscape and economy we seek to foster.”

The McEwens define resilience as exhibiting perseverance, effort, courage, and adaptability, and then being supported by the actions of other members of the ecosystem in finding effective solutions.

Another favorite saying, “A smooth sea never made a strong sailor,” is evident as the authors share their hard-earned and, at times, heartbreaking lessons of beekeeping.

The book covers technical details about organic and respectful bee-centric care, hive and apiary design, the natural rearing of queens, genetic selection for resiliency and mite resistance, ethically making a living from their farm products, and much more. Including over 100 color photographs and diagrams, a glossary, and references, this book will certainly add practical usefulness to lifelong learning for both new and experienced beekeepers. The authors’ stated goal is to raise resilient bees and resilient communities.

Over the past 20 years, the McEwens experimented with organic management practices while tending approximately 700 honeybee colonies. Their pollination and other services have supported many farms and businesses, including Applegate Valley’s Oshala Farm, Red Buttes Farms, Plaisance Ranch, Pacific Botanicals, Herb Pharm, and Whistling Duck.

Eric, who has a bachelor of science degree in botany and plant pathology from Oregon State University (OSU), heads the beekeeping operation on their organic Diggin’ Livin’ Farm & Apiaries in Takilma. He has been a mentor for the OSU Master Beekeeper Program and is a member of the Adaptive Bee Breeders Alliance. Eric is the originator and manufacturer of Natural Nest beehives, which the McEwens build in their sustainable woodshop on the farm.

Joy manages the farm and apiaries. She holds two bachelor of science degrees and a master’s degree in environmental science from OSU. She works as an apitherapist in Ashland and is the resident beekeeper for Southern Oregon University. Joy is a committee member on the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency board for Josephine and Jackson counties and serves as a board member on

the Illinois Valley Watershed Council and the American Apitherapy Society.

The McEwens teach beekeeping and apitherapy on the farm, where they live with their three daughters—each actively involved in all aspects of the farm and the products generated. Honey—handled to retain maximum enzyme and nutrient content—is, of course, the primary product and the book explores its history and benefits. Other products are beeswax for sealants and candles, fermented beverages called Honey Bee Brews, honey-based herbal preparations, and medicinal tinctures from propolis, a resinous substance collected from tree buds by honeybees. The “bee glue” tincture is a customer favorite for infections. The McEwens do not sell bee pollen or royal jelly, as they feel these harvests come at too great a cost to the bees.

Through their efforts of producing local foods, pollination services, and medicinal products, the McEwens feel the joy and rewards of living a life in tune with the cycles of nature. Their hope is that the development of other farm and bee-based businesses will add abundance and sustainability to rural communities. Jeanette LeTourneux • jetlet10@gmail.com

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Architects of the underground

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Way in the distant past, like 35 years ago, the ground around our home had difficulty sprouting anything other than star thistle. Ms. Compulch (“compost” and “mulch”), as my friends call me, came to the rescue with truckloads of dead leaves, mowed grass, straw, carrot pulp, okara (soy pulp)—and the muscles to mix it all together—to begin the birth of healthy soil.

I didn’t use topsoil because you really don’t need to add it when planting. (You are standing on topsoil.) Bags of the store-bought stuff contain organic bits, like leaves, tree bark, wood chips, grasses—and weeds. This stuff can actually sustain plant life, but it does not have any enriched added amendments, so good luck in maintaining a healthy, vigorous garden. And bugs love weak plants.

Instead of adding topsoil, amend the existing soil with compost, like I did. As compost rots and integrates with topsoil, voilà, you now have humus, the highly decomposed organic stuff from dead plants, crumbled dried-up leaves, dead insects, bugs, and twigs.

Once I had mixed my compost into that dirt that used to grow nothing but star thistle, the news got out. Earthworms discovered a great new restaurant in the neighborhood. They came to eat and stayed to turn the compost to humus.

Earthworms are the unsung heroes of the underworld. “It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures,” said Charles Darwin.

These fantastic burrowing creatures are the living, breathing engineers of



Earthworms are the unsung heroes of the underworld (grit.com).



Good-looking humus, the end stage of decomposed compost (getlawnbright.com).

the underworld, eating and recycling organic matter to keep our soil healthy. They eat twice their body weight every day. (If I ate like that, I would be ginormous, but let’s not think about that.) Earthworms thrive on low-calorie foods: dead plants, fallen leaves,

fungi, bacteria, and even dead animals.

After these “engineers” are grossly overfull, they (pardon me)—they poop. This poop is called “worm castings” and is about the healthiest superfood you can feed your vegetables and other plants. Worm castings contain 1,000 times more beneficial bacteria, seven times more phosphorus (for healthy root growth), and five times more nitrogen (for healthy green leaves) than the original soil. Also good news: plants are able to rapidly absorb soil nutrients from worm castings.

Worms are helping create humus, the end stage of decomposed compost. In warmer climates the decomposing process may take anywhere from six to 12 months—

somewhere between the gestational time for a porpoise (six months) and a donkey (12 months). In colder climates, it could take longer.

While southern Oregon is not the arctic, it is—guess what—cold here in winter. Without getting into the depths

(pun intended) of compost piles, I have a few tips that will help you heat up your compost. The idea is to keep the inside of the pile from freezing, as freezing stops the decomposing action. The heat inside the compost pile or bin has nothing to do with your shivering outside. Actually, the heat on the inside goes up or down depending on a few things.

The inside temperature gets warm because there are little wee bacteria in there, kind of dancing and generating heat. Bacteria love big houses, so...keep piling it on. Make the compost piles bigger.

Oops, too many wee bacteria and not enough to eat? What to do?

Who wants a warm cup of coffee grounds on a cold winter morning? The wee bacteria housing corporation does. Coffee grounds are like “protein,” and the wee bacteria dancing around love them. Now the many wee bacteria are really dancing around, making more heat and turning compost into humus.

Monitor the moisture content. It should feel like a well wrung-out sponge.

But what if you end up with soggy humus?

Here come the heroes, the earthworms! These worm fellows excrete nitrogen that will break down the compost to the right consistency of humus. This is a key nutrient for fertile garden soil. Humus and nitrogen are like best friends and help the plants grow.

Salute the earthworms and celebrate World Earthworm Day on October 21!

Dirty fingernails and all,
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littlemuddyred@gmail.com

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Frogs at Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG AND KRIS DUBENIC

Pacifica loves our Pacific tree frogs, with their tiny masks and changeable colors. There are also some non-native bullfrogs that eat tree frog tadpoles. The bullfrogs' deep jug-of-rum song is wonderful, but if you have a heron that eats them, say "bon appetit!"

Despite having existed for hundreds of millions of years, frogs are in trouble. A study in *Science* magazine says that the majority of frog species are declining, many up to 90 percent. The US Department of Agriculture says that one-third of amphibian species are at risk of extinction. Frogs face a combination of threats, but the main one is a pathogenic fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*), that causes chytridiomycosis (also known as chytrid fungus disease, which kills amphibians by destroying their skin, disrupting their immune systems, and causing heart failure). It has been silently massacring groups of frogs since the late 1970s, though scientists didn't recognize it as the main culprit until the late 1990s. The loss of frogs affects whole ecosystems because frogs are both predators and prey.

How you can help

- Let frogs, toads, and bats take care of your insects, rather than use toxic pesticides.
- Tree frogs love to hang out inside vertical tubes, so pound a few PVC pipes

(approximately two inches by three feet) into the ground.

- Terra-cotta pots turned on their sides and partially buried make nice homes.
- Create an outdoor compost pile.
- Provide piles of rocks, logs, and leaves.
- Frogs don't need much space, but they do *need water*. Use a commercial pond liner, a kid's wading pool, or even a plastic bin in the shade, and keep it full of water and a few rocks, sticks, leaves, and moss. Put plants around the edge for shade and cover.

- Drive carefully, watching for frogs.

Learning about frogs

During our creek and pond activities at Pacifica, students have the opportunity to follow their curiosities and explore the wonders of such interesting and biodiverse ecosystems. Their curiosity is a gateway for deeper awareness of the processes that are taking place right under their noses. As they discover the plethora of living beings in and around the water, they start to identify the various species. Many beings are at different stages of metamorphosis, such as dragonfly nymphs and caddisfly larvae. The presence of many "sensitive" species, such as frogs, and of "tolerant" species that can withstand pollutants indicates the health of the waterbody and overall ecosystem. This and the presence of keystone species,



Help save Pacific tree frogs! The loss of frogs affects whole ecosystems because frogs are both predators and prey.

such as salmon in the creek, help us if there is anything we humans can do to restore the habitat. Most importantly, all of this is learned while having fun playing together and exploring in the water. After all, learning to truly love and belong in nature is the key ingredient to wanting to help it!

Fun family Frog Day

From noon-3 pm Sunday, June 2, come and participate in some of the activities that Outdoor School and field trip kids get to do. Explore water and aquatic insects, learn about frogs, and make frog crafts.

Pacifica update

Pacifica is excited to launch its High School Student Leadership Program! In spring 2024, for the very first time, high school students will participate in leadership training and then facilitate fifth- and sixth-graders during three days and two nights of Outdoor School. We are beyond excited to create more opportunities for

young adults to be outside, build career skills, and gain experience as mentors to younger students. We are still recruiting student leaders—visit pacificagarden.org/education/student-leader-program to learn more and apply!

Peg Prag and Kris Dubenic
peg@pacificagarden.org

Dreaming with Spring Frogs

By Peg Prag

Frogs wake from winter, astonished
to chorus in joy
every night

Caroling, caroling, caroling
in gentle rhythmic voices,
of spring and pond and beauty

Singing, singing, singing
in gentle rhythmic voices,
about wonder and what life's all about

Humming, humming, humming
in gentle rhythmic voices
that wrap me softly in their sweet,
hopeful dreams.

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BIRD EXPLORER
Our Bird Explorer has flown the coop!
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Diverse opportunities for prescribed fire skills training and learning

BY AARON KRIKAVA

This spring the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association (RVPBA) is collaborating on several opportunities for hands-on learning, training, and certification in the use of controlled burning and wildland firefighting skills.

All Things Fire Fair!, March 9. This fire fair, at the Applegate Valley Fire Department's community center, will offer presentations, demonstrations, and a chance to mingle with groups, agencies, and contractors working to make our community more resilient to the effects of wildfire. The RVPBA will be presenting on the importance of controlled burning to maintain fire resilience and increase the health of our fire-dependent forests. Our Applegate fire marshal, Brian Mulhollen, will demonstrate techniques for building burn piles and for using safe pile-burning procedures.

Certified Burn Manager (CBM), April 1-3. This course, offered by Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, is for individuals who have had experience managing prescribed burns and would like to increase their knowledge and gain liability protection from the state and access to the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund. The purpose of the CBM program is to increase the use of prescribed burning on private lands through training, certification, and liability protection. A controlled burn conducted by a CBM following an authorized burn plan protects the landowner and burn manager from civil liability.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) rolled out their new CBM program at the end of last year. This will be the first opportunity for individuals in our area to complete the course. After the three-day classroom and field-based course and a final exam, students will receive a field certification book with tasks to complete while they participate in a minimum of three controlled burns under the mentorship of a current Certified Burn Manager. Pile-burn management and broadcast-burn management have different certification books. The completed certification book is submitted to ODF for final approval. Our RVPBA burns offer the perfect opportunity to complete the certification book.

IGNITE Prescribed Fire Skills Training, April 6-7. The OSU Extension Service, ODF, and RVPBA training will cover many of the skills for conducting a controlled burn. Some of the stations will include burn-site layout, water-handling equipment, ignition patterns, radio communications, fire-weather readings, fire ecology, and cultural burning. This event is open to all and is ideal for those interested in learning the how, what, and why of prescribed burning. This event will also serve as the



Community members learn about various hand tools and drip torches at an RVPBA training event. Photo: Reanna Feinberg.

orientation weekend for participants in the Rogue Basin TREX (Prescribed Fire Training Exchange). RBTREX will then go on to provide on-call opportunities to participate in federal burns (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management). The announcement for TREX is forthcoming.

Free Field Day Exercise, April 14. RVPBA will present an excellent introduction for anyone interested in learning the basic tools and skills of wildland firefighting or getting certified for employment as a wildland firefighter. Some of the training stations will include the use and maintenance of hand tools, ignition devices, fire engines and hose lays, and radio communication. In conjunction with free online S-130 and S-190 coursework, this class will allow participants to complete the requirements to become a National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) Fire Fighter Type 2 (FFT2/basic firefighter). For individuals seeking FFT2 certification, the necessary fire shelter deployment and arduous pack test will also be offered. (This date is tentative; contact us at the email below to stay informed.)

The RVPBA also has a fun-filled spring of controlled burns planned! These live-fire training events are a great way to put all these fire skills to use. Whether it's your first time observing a controlled burn, or you're ready to drag a drip torch or want to manage a burn for your CBM certification book, we have opportunities for everyone. Burns are planned all across the Rogue Valley, ranging from two to 30 acres. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

If you have questions about these training events, send me an email at roguevalleypba@gmail.com or visit blogs.oregonstate.edu/ignite.

To keep updated about all of the RVPBA's events, sign up for our newsletter at roguevalleypba.com.

For the third year, RVPBA has gathered funding support from the US Department of Agriculture/US 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 providing outreach, including the writing of this article.

Aaron Krikava
roguevalleypba@gmail.com

Ecological commercial thinning under way in Upper Applegate Watershed

BY TOM GRECO



Ecological commercial thinning as part of the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project.

We are pleased to announce that a commercial thinning phase of the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project is under way in the Applegate Valley. This long-term, community-informed restoration effort aims to improve forest health and enhance wildlife habitat while reducing the risk of severe wildfire to the ecosystem. Across the 52,000 acres of watershed lands, mostly administered by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District, 18,000 acres have been strategically selected for treatment with ecological thinning and prescribed fire. The project is implemented through a Master Stewardship Agreement among the RRSNF, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, and The Nature Conservancy. Further collaboration guidance is provided by Rogue Forest Partners.

Lomakatsi, the lead nongovernment implementation partner for the UAW project, has contracted the ecological commercial thinning with Timberline Helicopters, Inc., through a competitive selection process involving the US Forest Service (USFS) and other partners. This tree-cutting phase is taking place on 878 acres of land managed by RRSNF. In December 2023, timber fellers from Timberline began cutting small- to medium-diameter trees (mostly Douglas fir) that were carefully marked by Lomakatsi's ecological forestry team with oversight from USFS foresters.

The goal is to retain and encourage the growth and health of large old trees and hardwoods—trees that are more resistant to fire and the impacts of climate change—by thinning younger trees around them. This reduces competition and issues with insects and disease, while shifting the forest back to the more open, historic conditions present under frequent mild fires from lightning and cultural burning by Indigenous peoples.

In January, a Timberline helicopter began moving the cut trees to a staging area onsite. The use of a helicopter greatly diminishes soil impacts while removing trees from steep slopes. At

the staging area, trees are being cut to length, loaded on trucks, and shipped to the Murphy Veneer mill. Revenue generated by Murphy's purchase of the logs will help offset the cost of operations.

After this commercial phase, Lomakatsi and USFS fuels specialists will oversee understory thinning within the same units. This will involve the cutting and piling of small diameter

trees (again, mostly Douglas fir) and "ladder fuels"—including dead lower limbs of trees that could carry fire up into the forest canopy—to further improve forest health. The piles will subsequently be burned when conditions are safe. These project phases will be funded by federal and state grants.

The ultimate goal is to restore the forest to a healthier, less dense condition that supports the application of prescribed fire through underburning, which brings many ecological benefits to the fire-adapted ecosystem and is the most cost-efficient method of maintaining restoration treatments into the future. This work will increase the likelihood that a wildfire will burn at lower severity and ideally bring ecological benefits, rather than cause the "stand-replacing" destruction seen in recent megafires, requiring a century or more for a forest to recover.

The use of the collaborative Stewardship Agreement allows federal agencies to work with community-based partners toward ecologically centered goals. A similar agreement shaped the nearby successful Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project, which has become a national model. Thousands of additional acres of forestlands in the Rogue Basin need restoration. The ability to use logs generated from restoration activities will leverage state and federal grant investments and allow partners to implement forest health treatments across a higher percentage of the landscape. This project also supports the "restoration economy" by generating business for local and regional forestry-services providers and mills.

It takes a lot of skill and experience to work across steep, forested terrain. Project partners are grateful to Timberline, Murphy Veneer, and our many industry partners who make this stewardship model possible by providing capacity for implementation—sustaining jobs and supporting local economies—and a means by which trees thinned from overly dense forests—byproducts of restoration—can be used for wood products.

Tom Greco
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
tom@lomakatsi.org

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

The distinctive Arctic Skipper

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Arctic Skipper, *Carterocephalus palaemon*, is a skipper of the Hesperidae family of butterflies. There is no mistaking this skipper as its colors and spots are very distinctive.

The Arctic Skipper is a very small skipper with a wingspan of one inch or less. It is boldly marked on its dorsal and ventral. The dorsal view has a dark brown background with many cream-colored spots. The ventral hindwings show an

amber background with cream- to yellow-oval shapes outlined in black.

This skipper is single brooded (one brood a year). Females will lay their eggs singly on host plants. A silken nest is built on the grasses where the larvae will overwinter. As spring arrives, the larvae will resume feeding and forming the pupae. In our mixed conifer forest region, Arctic Skippers use grasses and possibly species of grass

in the genus of Calamagrostis as their host plants.

A boreal species, it is common in the far north, reaching Canada then becoming rarer south of Canada. It occurs in the Pacific Northwest from Alaska to Northern California.

In our region the butterfly prefers moist habitats usually around a 4,000-foot elevation and above, near streams, mountain meadows with grassy areas, riparian mountain trails near water, and possibly lower in very moist areas where habitat conditions are prime.

They are usually seen flying alone with other butterflies rather than in large groups of their own. They can be seen in flight from mid-May through July. The males will visit mud spots and

both sexes will nectar on composites and visit broad leaves of Avens, which are various plants of the genus *Geum* in the Rose family.

My own experience with the Arctic Skipper is local. We have it well documented in the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve (OCNMP) from our butterfly surveys performed within the monument. These surveys are done with the OCNMP staff, their interns, entomologists, lepidopterists, and biologists from around the region.

It can be a hard butterfly to follow, but when you do see its unique looks, you will always recognize it. It is for sure a pleasure to encounter!

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



Linda Kappen

Arctic Skipper butterflies in the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve in the western Siskiyou Mountains.



Ventral view



Dorsal view

Photos by Linda Kappen

The old Forest Creek cabin

BY JACK DUGGAN

In 1871, a successful cloth merchant from San Francisco invested in gold mining on Forest Creek in southern Oregon. The operation grew to two hydraulic sites and two shafts (adits), according to the 1904 edition of *Southern Oregon Mineral Wealth*.

It wasn't always easy. From the "Forest Creek News" in the *Medford Mail*, August 20, 1897: "Our mines are at a standstill on Forest Creek, except for quartz."

That same column contained this item: "Forest fires are raging on Forest Creek." On August 27 the column reported "Forest Creek is dry."

In 1898 W.A. Knapp was operating the mines and was assisted by John Winningham when "putting in a larger reservoir for W.A. Knapp of the Knapp & Dugan (sic) mine." February 18, 1898: "John Winningham will farm the Dugan (sic) ranch this year. He intends to raise grain and some vegetables." Winningham was also described as the "pipe owner" for the mine.

By November 1899, the *Mail* reported that all Forest Creek miners were planning a good year with lots of water. Hope was stronger still in 1900: "John Winningham, superintendent of the Dugan (sic) mine, informs us that Mr. Dugan (sic) intends to make that mine a paying proposition



1970 photo of Forest Creek "shotgun" cabin built in 1910.

this winter." By October 6, 1900: "Mr. Dugan (sic) of San Francisco is here looking after his mines. He will operate his hydraulic plant more extensively this season than ever before."

Forest Creek was a busy agricultural area as well. The April 24, 1903, *Mail* reported that: "Ira Coffman has sold his hay to McGall at the Duggan mine." By the next month Ira Coffman was working at the Duggan mine. The reports indicate that

Mr. Duggan, my great-grandfather, was a frequent visitor to the area. In 1910 he hired a man named Joe Broad to build a cabin. (Joe Broad is most likely related to John Broad, who operated the Oregon Belle Mine for a number of years. Joe Broad was also a boarder at the Duggan home in San Francisco.)

The cabin was a "shotgun" cabin, meaning you could stand at the front door, fire a shot, and there would be nothing to stop it from going cleanly out the back door. In the 1920s, a sitting room and two bedrooms were added. Construction on both sections was "thin wall" with no insulation, and the foundation was log rounds. During the Depression of the 1930s, a quick shelter of poles and board (without foundation) was added.

In the 1940s a caretaker lease was signed, and the cabin was occupied by



Refurbished cabin using the original 1910 wood to finish the front.

the caretaker. The caretaker logged the property far beyond what was allowed in the lease, and he was forcibly evicted in 1966, the same year I entered the military. For the next few years, a succession of family friends occupied the old cabin. When Grandmother Duggan passed in 1970, I had been home from Vietnam about a year and took up residence. A few years later, a new, conventionally framed house was built on the land.

Following my career move to Seattle, the cabin was rented out. Having settled some, it was fondly known as "The Tiltin'

Hilton." In 1999 I moved back to Forest Creek and lived in the cabin for a few months while building a new home. At that point the old cabin was used for storage.

Having seen better days, by early in the 21st century it was slowly sagging into the ground. It was decided to rebuild, on the same footprint, a pole barn structure. Using old, discarded mining pipe for footings, the pillar

and post superstructure was completed in little better than five months. The cabin was reborn to live another 100 years.

Jack Duggan • shanachie@hughes.net
Note: All excerpts are from "Forest Creek News" in the *Medford Mail* at the turn of the century. Forest Creek was a thriving community with mining, agriculture, and timber being the primary sources of income. The clippings are full of such Applegate names as Vickeroy, Pearce, Davies, Winningham, Black, and others. A prominent family named Armpriest was regularly featured in the reports.

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Conifers are focus of the upcoming Siskiyou Crest Field Trip Series

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Conifers make up a large part of the local ecology and provide a lens for understanding the complex habitat mosaics and biodiversity that define the region. Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) is in the process of securing special use permits from the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management for a series of field trips to visit all 25 different conifer species that grow in the Siskiyou Crest region. The plan is for eight different field trips between May and August this year. Participants will be able to register for a single trip, all eight trips, or any variation in between.

The Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, well-known for their incredible biodiversity, contain more conifer species—35 species—than any other temperate forest in North America. As a result of the region's unique geology, steep topographical complexity, pronounced microclimates, dramatic elevation gradients, and millions of years of undisturbed evolution, the Siskiyou Crest region alone supports an astounding 25 conifer species. It also supports many rare, endemic, paleoendemic, and newly evolved species of all kinds, but it is the world-class conifer diversity that is so renowned and will be the focus of this field trip series.

When registration opens, more information about the field trip series will be found on the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance website at applegatesiskiyoualliance.org



Suzie Savoie visits the Baker's cypress near Miller Lake.

and Facebook page. Sign up for ASA's email listserve for email notification.

The field trip series will be led by Luke Ruediger and Suzie Savoie. Other botanists, naturalists, and specialists will be invited along on different trips to help participants learn more about the biodiversity of the region.

This field trip series is for you if you:

- are interested in exploring some of the wildest and most botanically diverse locations in our region.
- are interested in developing a stronger sense of place in the Siskiyou Mountains.
- want to learn more about the region's forests, conifer species, and biodiversity.
- want to get out and enjoy the wildflowers, vistas, and local scenery while learning about conifers.
- have local native conifer species in mind that you've never seen before and that you've been wanting to see—here's your chance!

We're still firming up details but wanted to get a notice about this exciting field trip series in the *Applegater* before the field trip season starts. Below is the initial itinerary; final dates will be firmed up when ASA completes the permitting process.

Come meet some of the conifer species that define our region.

May

- Little Grayback Trail: gray pine, incense-cedar, knobcone pine
- Sucker Creek Trail: Port Orford-cedar, Pacific yew, Douglas fir

June

- Anderson Butte/Jack Ash Trail: western juniper, common juniper, ponderosa pine

- Sundew Lake near Bloomfield Pass: Pacific silver fir, noble fir, sugar pine, grand fir
- Whisky Peak: Alaska yellow-cedar, Brewer's spruce

July

- Big Red Mountain and Tamarack Meadows: Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, white fir
- Miller Lake: Baker's cypress, western white pine, mountain hemlock

August

- Mt. Ashland: whitebark pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, Shasta red fir

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

Variegated wild incense-cedar tree catches the eye

In February 2023 I was hiking with my husband, Luke, in the snowy upper reaches of Elliott Creek, in the Upper Applegate, at about 3,600-foot elevation, when I caught sight of a strangely pale conifer. I moved closer to it and realized it was an incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) with naturally variegated foliage in a tapestry of creamy white and pale yellow,



Incense-cedar tree with variegated foliage found by Suzie Savoie.

streaked with green. I thought it was unusual and kind of cool, so I took a bunch of photos and created an observation on the app iNaturalist.

Ten months later I got an email from Jake Shreckhise, PhD, a US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service horticulturist at the US National Arboretum, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, in McMinnville, Tennessee. He had seen the iNaturalist observation online and was interested in coming here to get some cuttings. "One of my research goals is to evaluate and introduce underused native trees and shrubs for the ornamental landscape and nursery industries. *Calocedrus decurrens* is one of my species of interest, and the variegated seedling you came across and posted in iNaturalist caught my eye," Jake said.

To save him the time and effort of coming here, I made the couple-hour hike to the tree myself this past February, thankfully with no snow this time,

and took a bunch of cuttings for Jake. [The tree is on US Forest Service (USFS) land, and I have been in communication with the folks at Star Ranger Station, so they were aware of the effort.] The variegated cuttings were overnighed to Tennessee, where they were grafted onto rootstock, much like fruit-tree grafting. The hope is that the trees will keep the

variegation, grow it out, and become a new, named cultivar for nurseries to provide to the public.

"The tree is unlike anything in the trade, in my opinion. Sure, there are plenty of variegated conifers, but nothing with that pattern," Jake said.

After completing this fun project, I reached out to several botanists, including retired USFS botanists Wayne Rolle and Barb Mumblo, who have decades of botanizing experience throughout the region. Neither knew of anyone who had ever come across a naturally variegated conifer locally either, so it's definitely an exciting find. Jake offered to pay for my time, but I told him I didn't need any money to help him with this. I just requested that, if they do succeed in making a named cultivar out of the cedar I had found, they would name it after the Siskiyou Mountains in some way. I suggested "Siskiyou Snow."

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com



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Climate consciousness climbs in the Rogue Valley

BY ALAN JOURNET

“Firmageddon” may sound cute, but it identifies a serious problem in the Applegate Valley. Our experience of this condition involves the hundreds of Douglas-fir trees that we can see dying around the valley. Causes for this have been identified as drought, dry atmosphere, and insect borers. The culprit is probably a combination, but underlying these are global warming’s climate change consequences.

When we look at our climate future, we see a continuation of the trends we have been experiencing for the last few decades. A good source for historic data relevant to Jackson and Josephine counties is NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration), while the USGS (US Geological Survey) provides graphic depictions of future conditions assuming we continue the current trajectory. From these two sources and others we find the following trends and implications.

Trends

Temperature projections, based on the current trajectory, suggest that by the end of the century Jackson County could exhibit an average annual warming of up to 10-15 degrees F above the 1981-2010 average, while Josephine County could experience a warming of up to 7-14.5 degrees F above the same average. Summers are likely to warm more than winters.

Precipitation projections suggest that both counties will experience greater variability between wet and dry years than they have historically, but, on average, no change. Seasonally, however, summers are likely to become dryer and winters wetter. Snowpack projections, assessed in terms of the water content of the snowfall, suggest that Jackson County will experience a decrease of over 90 percent while Josephine County will experience a decrease of over 70 percent.

Finally, the evidence suggests extreme weather in the valley is likely to become a more frequent occurrence.

Implications

Applegate Valley is a rural community where most residents delight in the natural beauty of the valley and/or make a living in agriculture or forestry. The first concern many of us have is that, should the current climate trajectory continue, our habitats will be devastated. Regrettably, this applies also to our agriculture and forests. Those growing crops know that the same variables of temperature and precipitation determining where natural ecosystems thrive, also determine what crop varieties we can grow. Wine varieties provide an excellent example (socan.eco/the-future-of-fine-wines-in-the-applegate-valley). It is probably of little surprise that the viability of our forest species is determined by the same variables. Just as Douglas firs are now suffering, so will many other tree species



Firmageddon presents itself in the Applegate Valley as a large number of Douglas firs are expiring. Photo: Alan Journet 2023.

suffer in the near future unless we address the problem, collectively and globally. In the meantime, we should adapt to those forthcoming climate trends that are inevitable as best we can.

We know that actions taken by Applegate residents to reduce emissions will not solve the global climate crisis, but we can contribute our share to reducing emissions. We can also take steps to adapt to the changing climate in order to allow Applegaters to thrive and prosper as the future unfolds.

An Applegate effort

Consistent with its efforts to develop a series of regional working groups addressing various issues critical to valley residents, A Greater Applegate (AGA) is collaborating with Southern Oregon

Climate Action Now’s Regional and Local Project to establish a Climate Working Group.

The first meeting of this group will be at the Applegate Library, 18485 North Applegate Road, from 5:30-7:30 pm Thursday, April 11. Light refreshments will be provided. At this gathering, we will explore what might be done to address climate change in the Applegate Valley, as well as examine the skills and interests of those present to identify what an AGA Climate Change Working Group might undertake. We hope that you will join us in these efforts.

Alan Journet
Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon
Climate Action Now
alan@socan.eco

HISTORY BITS

Williams and Pacifica in the 1800s

BY PEG PRAG

The following are excerpts from a children’s book, *The Thank You Cairn: A History of Pacifica*, written by Peg Prag.

1840s

The land at Pacifica is mostly forested with Douglas fir on the hills and pine, oak, and cedar trees in the valleys. There are salmon in the creeks and plentiful game in the forests. These, plus acorns, berries, and bulbs (such as camas and biscuit root) gave small bands of Native Americans, such as the Dakubetede (dah-koo-bee-te-deh) or

Applegate Indians, sustenance for hard work and family life.

Although Native Americans inhabited parts of Oregon more than 15,000 years ago, it appears that there was a more recent migration (perhaps 700-1,500 years ago) from Alaska and western Canada (originally Siberia) of Athapaskan speakers (a language group, not a tribe). This migration included, in the Rogue Valley, the Dakubetede Tribe, who lived in what is now the Applegate, Galice, and Williams areas.

Farther east in the Rogue Valley were the Penutian-speaking Latgawa and Takelma Indians from an earlier migration.

Most tribes lived by rivers and used the uplands around them for seasonal gathering.

They built round, semi-submerged houses and subsisted primarily on acorns, camas and other bulbs, berries, salmon, and hunting. We have been told that the Williams Valley, including the small valley of Pacifica at the junction of Powell Creek, Camp Meeting Creek, and Williams Creek, was considered a special place, surrounded by sacred Grayback, Sugarloaf, and Medicine mountains.

1860s

In these years descriptions from the trappers and explorers were bringing

more and more settlers to Oregon looking for new land and new lives. The slowing down of the California Gold Rush brought waves of people to the area hoping to find gold. Gold was discovered on Williams Creek in 1858. “Then the scramble was on... with miners quickly showing up from all directions; by August of 1859, there were 20 buildings at the site” (Olga Johnson). Williamsburg was on a bench above Williams Creek, just northeast of the current bridge. The business section of Williamsburg included several stores for miners’ supplies and clothes, two hotels, three saloons, a public hall, and a blacksmith shop, none of which is left today.

See *WILLIAMS-PACIFICA HISTORY*, page 19.




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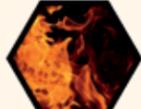
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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

Forest defense: An Applegate Valley tradition

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Over the past decade, Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) has successfully opposed thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales targeting mature and old-growth forests across the region, including the Pilot Thompson, Nedsbar, Middle Applegate, and Pickett West timber sales. Our opposition has not only saved thousands of acres of public land from being logged, but it has also sustained a movement, putting the Applegate Valley at the center of grassroots forest activism in the region.

This activism is woven into the fabric of the Applegate Valley community, and its successes are expressed on the landscape wherever towering old forests remain. Chances are, if you have a favorite forest in the Applegate, it was saved by residents in this community. Since the 1970s residents in the Applegate have fought for our forests, organized around wildlands, and joined together as a community to defend the region's incredible natural beauty and biodiversity. This legacy began with Chris Bratt, Paul Tipton, and Chant Thomas, among others, and continues today with residents all across the region who support Applegate Siskiyou Alliance and other Applegate-based environmental organizations.

For example, residents in the Applegate worked for the past four years to oppose the controversial Bear Grub Timber Sale, located in the mountains around Ruch and extending east towards Sterling Creek and the headwaters of the Little



Applegate Valley residents rally to stop the Bear Grub Timber Sale in the spring of 2020.

Applegate River. The Bear Grub Timber Sale proposed group-selection logging, a form of staggered clear-cut logging where whole groves of mature trees are targeted for removal in "groupings" up to four acres in size and up to 30 percent of a given timber sale unit. Thus, if 100 acres were identified for logging, 30 of those acres would have been clear-cut.

The project proposed this group-selection logging along the popular community-built East Applegate Ridge Trail, in the Wellington Wildlands along the proposed trail corridor for the Center Applegate Ridge Trail, at the headwaters of the Little Applegate River near Bald Mountain, and near the Jack-Ash Trail. Fortunately, after years of

activism and conflict surrounding this timber sale, the BLM withdrew the Bear Grub Timber Sale decision following consistent community opposition and directly after ASA and Applegate community members filed appeals with the Interior Board of Land Use Appeals (IBLA).

At the same time, rural residents in the Applegate Valley have been at the center of the opposition to the IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) Project, a massive region-wide logging proposal that would allow the BLM to approve up to 20,000 acres of commercial logging and 90 miles of new road construction per decade, while eliminating numerous levels of public involvement, public comment, scientific review, and public accountability. This logging could take place virtually anywhere on Medford District BLM lands, but would focus on logging Late Successional Reserve (LSR) forests designated specifically to protect old forest habitat for the northern spotted owl.

The first timber sales proposed under the IVM Project include two large timber sales above Williams and Murphy in the western Applegate Valley. The Late

Mungers Timber Sale is located mostly in the Murphy Creek-Spencer Gulch watershed and on the lower flank of Mungers Butte. Penn Butte Timber Sale is located on Mungers Creek, Marble Gulch, Mule Gulch, and Powell Creek—all critical tributaries of the Williams Creek watershed as it flows through the Williams Valley and into the Applegate River.

ASA spent months monitoring timber sale units and reviewing the tree-removal mark in these timber sales. What we found was significant group-selection logging, proposing to remove whole groves of trees up to 36 inches in diameter and down to as low as 30 percent canopy cover. The current timber-sale mark would convert closed, cool forests into hot, opens stands, removing habitat complexity and northern spotted owl habitat. In fact, according to BLM's own timber cruise data, over 5,247 trees over 20 inches in diameter are proposed for removal in just the Penn Butte Timber Sale portion.

Over the past three years ASA has monitored these timber sales, documented their potential impacts, organized protests, administratively challenged the IVM project, and filed a lawsuit against both the larger IVM Project and the Late Mungers/Penn Butte Timber Sales. Our goals are simple: the protection of the last mature and old-growth forest remaining in southwestern Oregon and the protection of the Late Successional Reserve network. Our case against the IVM Project will be heard in court on April 2, 2024, and we hope to tack another 20,000 acres onto the list of forests we have helped save.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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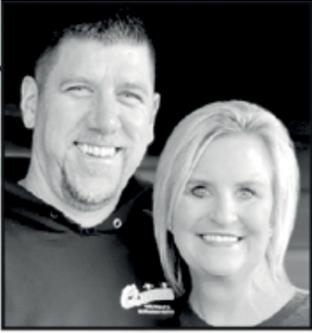
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New Home, New Well
from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Did you hear the one about the three holes in the ground filled with water?

No?
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How can I help?

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Volunteers are the heart of many organizations. They may be unsung heroes, active board members, or leaders of the parade. They can be retired folks, high school students earning community service credits, or people dedicated to a certain cause, like literacy! Whatever the reason, they contribute to the community, and the services they provide help our valley thrive.

What unites the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) is an overall passion for books and literacy. Their goal is to get books into the hands of community members through gifts to schoolchildren, the Little Libraries located throughout the area, gift certificates for Ruch Library reading incentives, and sales through the A-Frame Bookstore, Book Barn, and community events.

FORL volunteers operate the A-Frame Bookstore and the adjacent Book Barn, both enticing venues for book lovers and shoppers. Here volunteers receive and sort books, then shelve them for your browsing ease. The charming A-Frame houses the cream of the crop, gift books, and current editions. The Book Barn is home to more than 6,000 books, well organized and all for sale by donation. FORL also sponsors many library programs of interest to our valley.

Why volunteer?

"I love meeting new people." "We get a preview of what is new." "I always leave my shift with a stack of new and exciting reading material." And, as ex-librarian Laurel Prchal puts it, "It just feels good to be involved with the library and the community."

Barbara Krack, FORL president, is proud of leading FORL through the

pandemic, both online and in person, and helping make the Book Barn the wonderful place it has become. In 2007, she began helping at the library when the library was closed due to lack of funding and helped turn the A-Frame into a lending library. When the library reopened, she began shelving books there, and then began helping with periodic book sales with FORL. Once the Book Barn became available, she

moved onto creating that space by shelving the books that had once been in boxes in a tiny storeroom. "I have a real sense of belonging to the community as a volunteer, and I fully support FORL's mission of encouraging and supporting the development of Ruch Library by raising awareness of library services, offering programs that interest and unite the community, and promoting lifelong learning," she says.

Volunteer Janie Tibbals says, "Book lovers in the Applegate are a wonderful group of readers. I live in Jacksonville and come to Ruch to work with these folks. My love of books started as a young kid with a book-loving mom; then I got a degree in library science. I found this amazing group to work with (FORL), handling all sorts of delightful, informative, magnificent reading materials. So now, our sorting dates are the first thing on my calendar each month. Working several times a month in the cozy little A-Frame store is



FORL volunteers receive and sort books, then shelve them for your browsing ease.

a refreshing time to sit and enjoy the fruits of our labors and talk with like-minded folks—and even get in some reading or puzzle working. Come on and join us and find out what we do."

FORL is always looking for help sorting books and working a two-hour shift in the A-Frame Bookstore (1-3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday). Help is sometimes needed to supervise refreshments for programs at the library sponsored by FORL. Consider a membership in FORL or perhaps even a board position. To introduce yourself, you could attend a First Saturday Sale at the Book Barn (noon-4 pm), attend a FORL Board of Directors meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am at the library, or drop by the A-Frame to say "Hello." Here is your opportunity to join this vibrant organization, meet some great people, and serve the community of the Applegate Valley.

Thalia Truesdell
thaliatruessedell@gmail.com

WILLIAMS-PACIFICA HISTORY

Continued from page 17

Simon Messinger built a sawmill—the first mill on the lower Applegate—to supply lumber for mines and buildings. Even after the whipsaw hand operation was converted to a water-powered plant (still using an up-and-down motion), milling was very slow work. According to one old-timer, Messinger, after setting the saw to a log, could go and enjoy his lunch while the log was being cut.

Simon Messinger, a Pennsylvanian of German descent, came to Oregon by sea, around the Horn, in the 1850s. He married Martha Lindsay, age 16, whose father, David Lindsay, was a cousin of the Applegate brothers. She came west by wagon. Simon supported his family by ranching, lumber-milling, and working his mining claim, the Gold Standard Mine. Well-educated, Messinger also was considered a helpful neighbor whose early community functions included teaching



Athapaskan mother and child, c. 1900.

at the school when needed and crafting coffins.

"The Messinger boys reported a nice gold pocket on the hills above Oscar Creek in 1897... The Oregon Bonanza Mine on Powell Creek was worked as late as 1936. Also near Williams were the Red Rose diggings, the Snow Bird, and the American Beauty and Gold Standard claims, mined by Simon Messinger and sons" (Olga Johnson).

Si Messinger's great-grandson David says that although most people think that gold mining yields either spectacular results or tragic failure, most of the time Si and his sons worked "just for wages." For 30 years they operated their Gold Standard mine in the winter, hauling the ore to an arrastra on Williams Creek, and realized enough to buy needed livestock or farm machinery.

The Oregon Caves (now a national monument), located just over the mountain from Williams, was discovered by Williams resident Elijah Davidson on a hunting trip in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org

Josephine County votes help Abraham Lincoln win the election

From the Daily Courier: "In 1864 Abraham Lincoln received three votes from Oregon (three of the 98 votes by which he won the national presidential election). Those three Republican votes came from Josephine County...entered into the Williamsburg precinct tally by a most unwilling polls clerk—at gunpoint! Young Josephine County was completely Democrat; those three who voted for Lincoln considered themselves literally three against the world. They were Alex Watts, always in the front ranks of political endeavor in the younger days of southern Oregon (and a former next-door neighbor of Abe Lincoln in Illinois); Si Messinger, his neighbor, prominent rancher, miner, and a man of affairs; and Aug Bigelow.... The day of the election the three buckled on their six-guns as they set out for the polls. The polls clerk hastily started to slam down the voters' window, but six guns ominously pointed his way prevented the window from quite reaching the locking point, and Lincoln's only three votes from Oregon were thereupon loudly proclaimed to the world."

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OPINIONS

Our common interests outweigh our differences

BY JIM REILAND

I managed salespeople for 30 years. Many didn't know how to talk with potential customers who were, after all, people just like them.

The advice I gave then and would offer today: "Talk about what you have in common and avoid politics." I suggested they search for clues like family or vacation photos on the desk or a framed quote hanging on the office wall that inspires or makes us laugh. Even the clothes we wear and cars we drive could reveal connections between us. I assured them that being professional, truthful, and reliable were more important than politics. "By the time people know you, it's not about your politics; it's about you," I said. Important advice when your income depends on getting along with others.

As we come into the 2024 elections, I think about the polarization attached to nearly every national policy issue—from border security to election integrity, affordable housing to student loan forgiveness—and how the fear of confrontation paralyzes us. It can prevent us from joining in community activities here in the Applegate Valley.

We forget that our many common interests far outweigh the issues that divide us. We share a love of the Applegate Valley and all it offers—or we wouldn't be here. So why do we let politics come between us?

What really matters is that we can rely on each other when we need help with a downed tree blocking a driveway, car trouble along a lonely road on a wintry

night, or a prolonged power outage that threatens to spoil a freezer full of food. When we need help or see an opportunity to assist, do we first ask "How did you vote in the last election"? Of course not. We help log out the tree, fix a flat tire, or loan a spare generator.

When it comes to emergencies, we set aside the question of politics. Most of us see someone in need and just stop to help. If we need help and someone comes to our rescue, we're grateful. It's what people do for each other; political differences be damned.

I'm not sure why so many of us draw the line at emergencies, but I hope that line can be redrawn to include giving of our time, talents, and support to the many community organizations throughout the Applegate Valley that work to make this an even better place to live...even if we're not sure we share the same politics. Collecting surplus produce to feed people in need. Advocating for forest or streamside health. Promoting literacy. Maintaining trails and recreation areas. Helping neighbors build and burn brush piles to reduce wildfire risk. Writing for our community newspaper. And so much more.

We jump in to help during an emergency—why hold back from efforts that makes our community stronger? Once we realize that we care for each other—no matter who that "other" is—and the place we live, politics really doesn't matter. Our community health depends on it.

Jim Reiland

jim@manyhandsbuilders.com

Pipe Fork needs to be preserved

BY GREG STANKO

You may have read the letters to the editor in the *Daily Courier* regarding Pipe Fork Creek or heard of the 34 citizens who graced the Josephine County Commissioners meeting in December, speaking up for the preservation of this watershed. Initially, the county wanted to auction it for clear-cutting, but an avalanche of letters from outraged citizens gave a temporary reprieve.

If you've ever walked the Layton Ditch trail up to Pipe Fork Creek, you've witnessed nature at its finest, indeed! It is home to elk, cougar, bear, and the Pacific fisher, just to name a few species. The year-round fresh, clear, cool waters of this creek are also ideal habitat for salmon and steelhead. The steepness of the surrounding valley and abundant canopy in which Pipe Fork is nestled provides a blanket of shade that nourishes flora and fauna in its cool, moist shadows. Also present along the creek edges is the easternmost stand of Port Orford cedar, with its kin in the adjoining research natural area (RNA). The biodiversity is extensive and unique. It's no small wonder it was nominated for Wild and Scenic designation. It's a magical place!

The efforts for preservation continue. Until this parcel of land is wedded to the adjoining research natural area, it remains subject to the whims of the commissioners. The area for "treatment," i.e., clear-cutting, is steep, and no amount of stream buffers could mitigate the ruination of this fragile riparian area.

Not only would the native population of Port Orford cedars be reduced, soil compaction, erosion and habitat loss would take their toll. Decreased water flows would affect the orchards, pastures,

nurseries, homestead gardens, wells, and aquifers replenished downstream.

Williams Community Forestry Project (WCFP), which has been diligently pursuing the preservation of this beautiful local wonder, was able to convince the Josephine County Commissioners to consider selling the 320 acres. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with congressional approval, applied and acquired funds from the Land and Water Conservation grant to purchase the land for inclusion in the RNA.

During the same time, a national organization, The Conservation Fund, became interested in making a bridge loan to the BLM and, after a Yellow Book Appraisal, made a generous offer to Josephine County to purchase the land for \$2,020,000, exceeding the county's estimated value of \$1.6 million. The commissioners, unfortunately, not seeing the tremendous value of Pipe Fork to the county, are asking for an additional \$750,000—despite continuing downward trends in timber prices and an appraisal that was for fair market value.

In light of an ever-warming climate and the scarcity of clean, fresh water, every means necessary should be pursued to protect water sources. Our very lives and livelihoods depend on it.

We need your help to preserve the water and wildlife of this unique biodiverse habitat so it can never be logged again. Ever. Please.

Visit williamscommunityforestproject.org to learn how to help. Thank you in advance!

Greg Stanko
President of WCFP
denaliguy57@gmail.com

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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.

HISTORY BITS: APPLGATE VALLEY



Back in the day, it took a village to prepare the Applegater for mailing. Above are some of our loyal newspaper folding crew after a hard night's work sorting and bagging the papers in order to truck them to the post office to mail the next day. That's J.D. Rogers, the Applegater's first editor, in the cab of the fire district truck.



The Summit Service Station at the top of Jacksonville Hill in the mid 1930s included "a line of lunch goods, and the inviting picnic grounds among the pines at the rear of the building will make it a favorite with the autoists." From Evelyn Byrne Williams's "Back in Time" series originally published in the spring 2012 Applegater.

WILLIAMS LIBRARY

Continued from page 6

library at no cost. Funding for the virtual communication booth was provided by A Greater Applegate.

The virtual meeting booth, Zenbooth Solo, features a space large enough for two people to conduct a virtual interview, take an important call, or FaceTime with a loved one in a private space. The booth is equipped with lighting, acoustic insulation, and motion-activated ventilation. It also has a height-adjustable desk, outlets, and the ability to hardwire a device to the library's high-speed internet for seamless connection. Patrons can bring their own device or borrow a library laptop.

Ongoing events

Williams Weekly Storytime, 11-11:30 am Fridays. Themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment.

K9 Reading Buddies, 3-4 pm Tuesdays. Trained therapy dogs provide a nonintimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime.

Get a library card

Take advantage of thousands of books, e-books, and audiobooks with a library card. Find recommended reading, attend library programs for all ages, use public computers, and check out useful items like laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. Josephine County residents who live within the library district boundary get an annual library card at no cost. Stop by your local branch for more information and to sign up.

Library events and programs are offered at no charge and are open to the public. Registration and a library card are not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

You can reach Williams branch manager, Amber Guient, at aguent@josephinelibrary.org and 541-846-7020. The library is located at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams, OR 97544. New hours: 1-6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday; 11 am-6 pm Friday.

Brandace Rojo
Josephine Community Library
brojo@josephinelibrary.org

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Thanks to you, we met our goal!

BY DIANA COOGLE

First, a big round of applause for all of you who donated to the *Applegater* in November and December 2023. We met our \$15,000 match cap to be doubled by NewsMatch. We appreciate your generosity, Applegaters! In fact, all readers of the *Applegater* appreciate all who help keep it a vital part of our community.

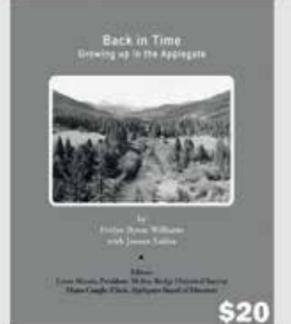
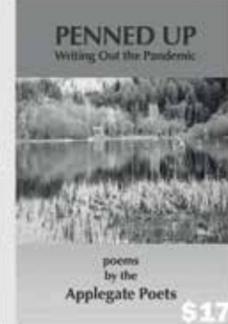
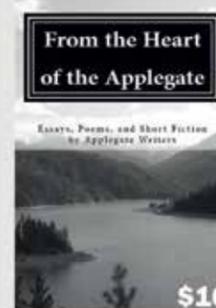
When I first joined the board of the *Applegater*, we were barely surviving issue by issue. At each board meeting, we discussed money-saving measures. (Cheaper paper? Fewer pages? Fewer issues per year? But never less distribution!) Thanks to our donors, our fundraisers, and our advertisers, we managed to stay afloat that way for years. Now, thanks to our donors, our advertisers, and successful NewsMatch campaigns, we can do more than just stay in operation issue by issue. We can breathe easily enough to look into the future—perhaps increase our distribution area and publish more frequently—and continue to publish and mail the *Applegater* at no charge to our readers.

With the addition of two new board members (see page 2), the *Applegater's* board of directors is looking strong. But we still need a treasurer. Please step up if you have those skills. We need you!

With secure financing for a few issues and a strong board, we are ready to celebrate 30 years of giving Applegaters a vehicle for their voices to be heard in the community. It's a legacy to be proud of. Come help us celebrate on June 2 at Vista 222 on Missouri Flat Road. We'll be waxing nostalgic about the *Applegater's* past and celebrating its present. Plan to come! I would love to see you there.

Diana Coogle
Chair, *Applegater* Board of Directors
diana@applegater.org

BOOKS FOR SALE



Help support the *Applegater*! Visit applegater.org for more information and to purchase.

Rogue Harm Reduction

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free overdose-reversal training, including free take-home Narcan/naloxone (to reverse opioid overdose) and fentanyl testing strips. Overdose intervention training typically lasts about 20 minutes. Training for fentanyl test strips takes about 10 minutes. Walk-ins are very welcome! We encourage our neighbors in the valley to come meet us, ask questions, and get trained.

Spring schedule

Training and distribution days are on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm, as follows: Thursday March 7, Thursday April 4, and Thursday May 2.

We are located at the Sugarloaf Center in Williams at 206 Tetherow Road. Park in the large gravel parking lot and take a short walk to the upper grounds at the end of the driveway. If needed, drive through to the upper lot and park at the top.

We hope to see you at the Sugarloaf Center in Williams!

More Harm Reduction in the Applegate/Rogue Valley

- HIV Alliance, 132 NE B Street, Grants Pass: Every Thursday 11 am-4 pm (naloxone and harm reduction)
- Max's Mission: maxsmision.org (Free naloxone by mail!)

Contact Rogue Harm Reduction at rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

Find us on Instagram @rogueharmreduction.

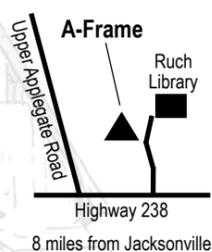
Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective interested in promoting community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use and other community health concerns. We work in partnership with and are trained by the HIV Alliance. Learn more at hivalliance.org.

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Discover Stories on the Land

This is excerpt 13 from the unpublished 1996 book, *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valley*, by George McKinley and Doug Frank. This passage is from pages 71-72.

Stopping Places

Along the gradually improving roads of this era (1857-1900), communities began forming around services that could be provided to travelers and miners. These communities also served the social and commercial needs of the growing body of more permanent residents. Many of these were first established in the early period of our study but took on greater permanency as settled communities during the last decades of the century. Some of them barely made it into the twentieth century, however, before they disappeared altogether.

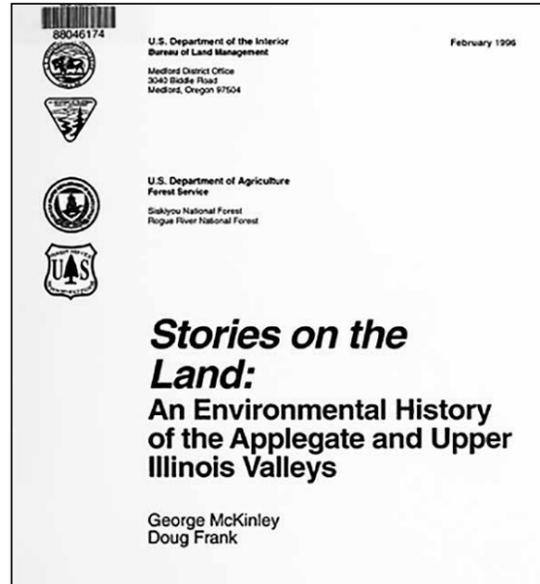
The first house in the Illinois Valley was built near the mouth of Democrat Gulch by Walling, Northcut, and Ball in 1852. Known as Walling's Ranch, it sold supplies to miners in the Sucker and Althouse drainages. On Deer Creek, the DLCs (Donation Land Claims) of Henry Wixom and Samuel Mooney were among the earliest examples of an established community. Wixom and Mooney operated

"Mooney's Place" on Wixom's land, where they provided accommodation to early travelers. William Hay's DLC, on what is now called "Hayes Hill," became a stopping place midway from Waldo to the ferry at Fort Vannoy. During the Indian Wars, it was known as "Fort Hay"; its stockade-style architecture was intended for defense against the natives.

In the lower part of the Applegate Valley, Alexander Jess operated a ferry at the mouth of Slate Creek. Just upstream was Junction House, built in 1857, a stopping place and store that became the foundation of Wilderville. In 1858, Hugh Heaps opened "Prospect Ranch on Applegate Creek" in the vicinity of Bernard Murphy's DLC, with overnight accommodations. (When Hugh's cook married, he advertised in the Crescent City newspaper for one who might "contract a partnership with him for life.") Later, Lewis Hayes bought the property and "set himself up in the freighting business, while travelers were accommodated at the hotel-home." His barn held 80 horses.

Hayes's son, David, remembered the tenor of life in those early days, which Olga Weydemeyer Johnson paraphrases this way:

"Trips to the Provolt store upriver were undertaken only at long intervals.



Applegate River, and erected a spacious two-story building with an upstairs dance hall. John and Marguerite Black tell us:

"Rose's Hall became famous for miles in every direction. Orlando helped organize the Bridge Point School District in 1872. He was postmaster of the Applegate Post Office in 1895, at which time the post office was in his home. Eventually his property was sold and the buildings removed."

Other stores opened at the mouth of Thompson Creek during the 1860s and 1870s. One of the most prominent was built of "hewed square logs" by William W. Pemoll, in

1874, on the north side of the Applegate River a couple of miles west of Applegate Crossing. Pemoll stocked a supply of basic grocery items, clothing, shoes, hardware, drugs, and whiskey. Six miles up Thompson Creek, the Bingham brothers ran a stopping place on their adjoining ranches, where they raised feed for livestock.

By 1860, travelers could count on finding shelter and food within a half day's journey at any point from Waldo to Jacksonville along the Jacksonville-Crescent City road. By 1870, general stores in the area were catering to the needs of an increasingly settled agricultural community.

Excerpted by Diana Coogle

■ GENEROUS DONORS

Continued from page 5

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Anonymous, Klamath Falls, OR
Anonymous, Williams, OR (4)
Stephanie Aguirre, Jacksonville, OR
Linda & Jim Alexander,
Central Point, OR
Applegate River Lavender Farm,
Jacksonville, OR
Donna Baird, Springfield, OR
Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
Dan & Claudia Beausoleil,
Williams, OR
Teri & Geoff Becker, Applegate, OR
Barry Bliss in Memory of Beth Bliss,
Grants Pass, OR
Steve & Shellie Boyd, Grants Pass, OR
Kelly & Don Brandeau, Williams, OR
James A Buck, Eagle Point, OR
Cynthia Cheney, Jacksonville, OR
Sara Christian, Lake Forest, CA
Anne Clay, Williams, OR
Richard & David Clayton,
Jacksonville, OR
Marvin & Evelyn Crawford,
Jacksonville, OR
Robert Cook, Livermore, CA
Randy Costello, Jacksonville, OR
Liza Crosse, Applegate, CA
Pam D'Allura, Jacksonville, OR
Frank Deluca, Jacksonville, OR
Eric Donnell, Grants Pass, OR
Dahna Dow, Jacksonville, OR
Tom Eckert, Jacksonville, OR
Bert Etling, Ashland, OR
Lisa A Evans, Williams, OR
Barbara Finley, Grants Pass, OR
Dana Gangnes, Jacksonville, OR
William Grimm, Jacksonville, OR
Gayle Erbe Hamlin, Jacksonville, OR
Connie Harris, Grants Pass, OR
Sylvia Hatchman, Grants Pass, OR
Susan Hedges, Grants Pass, OR

Wallace Henrich, Grants Pass, OR
David Hill, Grants Pass, OR
Hofstetter Family, Jacksonville, OR
Teresa Hopkins, Jacksonville, OR
Helon Howard, Williams, OR
John James, Fallbrook, CA
Jack & Carolee Jones, Jacksonville, OR
Chris Kane & Stan Long,
Grants Pass, OR
Debra Keberle, Jacksonville, OR
Kenneth King, Jacksonville, OR
Kingfisher Farms, Jacksonville, OR
Judy Krogh, Jacksonville, OR
Wendy Kupilik, Jacksonville, OR
Alice LaMoree & Peter Johnson,
Jacksonville, OR
Joseph Lavine, Grants Pass, OR
Jeanette LeTourneux, Applegate, OR
Brenda Marion, Jacksonville, OR
McKee Bridge Historical Society,
Jacksonville, OR
Susan Miler & David Doi,
Jacksonville, OR
Janis Mohr-Tipton & Paul Tipton,
Applegate, OR
Sammy Michael Munoz,
Grants Pass, OR
Michael Murphy, Grants Pass, OR
Ann Offenbacher & Dana Schefstrom,
Jacksonville, OR
Vernon & Gretchen Palmer, Bend, OR
Annette Parsons, Grants Pass, OR
Tom & Margaret Patterson,
Wilderville, OR
Alison Pazourek, Grants Pass, OR
Raymond & Margaret Prag,
Williams, OR
Red Lily Vineyards, Jacksonville, OR
Jody Reilly, Jacksonville, OR
Thomas Roberts, Jacksonville, OR
Yola Sanders, Ocean Park, WA
Daniel & Janeen Sathre,
Jacksonville, OR
Mrs. Fred Saunders, Grants Pass, OR
Don & Lori Sayer, Applegate, OR
Robert Scheel, Grants Pass, OR
Michele & Durgash Scherer,
Williams, OR
Joyce M. Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR
Charles Seagraves, Grants Pass, OR
Thomas E. Sharwood, Jacksonville, OR
Pete & Shelly Smith, Grants Pass, OR

Nikki Squire, Bend, OR
Cynthia Stevens, Jacksonville, OR
Lillian & Allen Stewart,
Jacksonville, OR
Mark & Judi Stillwell, Fayetteville, AR
Steven Tichenor, Grants Pass, OR
Michael & Paula Tougher,
Jacksonville, OR
Rita & Thomas Turek, Williams, OR
Dr. Jim & Karen Van Delden,
Grants Pass, OR
Marina Walker, Jacksonville, OR
Geoff Weaver, Jacksonville, OR
Christin Weber, Jacksonville, OR
Frank & Gwen Werner, Jacksonville, OR
John & Silvia Woods, Grants Pass, OR

DEER

Anonymous, Applegate, OR (2)
Anonymous, Grants Pass, OR (6)
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR (3)
Anonymous, Murphy, OR
Anonymous, Wilderville, OR (2)
Anonymous, Williams, OR
2 O'clock Dan, Williams, OR
Felicia Ann Acrea, Grants Pass, OR
Jean Ainsworth, Grants Pass, OR
Peter Allen, Grants Pass, OR
Linda Althouse, Grants Pass, OR
Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
T. Bass, Jacksonville, OR
Danny & Lorraine Boone,
Grants Pass, OR
Jill Brenkman, Jacksonville, OR
Michael Brooks, Jacksonville, OR
Cheryl Bruner, Williams, OR
Ellen Beth Curtis, Jacksonville, OR
Emily Demmin, Jacksonville, OR
Mary Lee Denton, Williams, OR
Roger & Helen Ekins, Jacksonville, OR
Audrey Eldridge, Albany, OR
Bert Etling, Ashland, OR
Megan Fehrman, Jacksonville, OR
Christopher Friend, Wilderville, OR
Pat & Steve Gehres, Applegate, OR
Bruce Gibbs, Grants Pass, OR
Marie & Gary Gilbreth,
Jacksonville, OR
Thelma Goodnough, Applegate, OR
Connie Goodrich, Jacksonville, OR
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR
Lamar Hanson, Grants Pass, OR
Jette & Victor Havens, Wilderville, OR

Gregory Hickey, Grants Pass, OR
Barbara Holiday, Medford, OR
Harold Hopkins
Claudia Ingraham, Jacksonville, OR
Vane & Bonnie Jones, Murphy, OR
David Keip, Grants Pass, OR
Gerald R Kime, Grants Pass, OR
Jo Larsen, Williams, OR
The Levitt Family, Williams, OR
Bob Lieberman, Grants Pass, OR
Gary & Dolores Lisman,
Jacksonville, OR
Ann & Bob Manes, Jacksonville, OR
Jane Mara, Murphy, OR
Maureen McLaughlin in memory of
Walter Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR
Karen Mitchell, Jacksonville, OR
Sydney Mitchell, Grants Pass, OR
Jean Mount, Grants Pass, OR
Virginia Niebuhr, Grants Pass, OR
Barbara Niedermeyer, Jacksonville, OR
Carol Offenbacher, Grants Pass, OR
Janice & Jeffrey Peacock, Lafayette, CA
Kathie Philip, Jacksonville, OR
Shelley Pollock, Jacksonville, OR
Janet Porrazzo, Jacksonville, OR
Kathleen Pyle, Jacksonville, OR
Coenraad Rogmans, Jacksonville, OR
Donald Rubenstein, Grants Pass, OR
Michael Schwartz, Grants Pass, OR
Carolyn Simonds, Grants Pass, OR
Jeanette Stobie, Applegate, OR
John Taylor, Grants Pass, OR
Marilyn Terry, Williams, OR
Glenn Thompson, Gold Beach, OR
Renee & Larry Thompson,
Grants Pass, OR
Debbie & Don Tollefson,
Jacksonville, OR
George Trahern, Grants Pass, OR
Terri Treat, Williams, OR
Mike & Rhonda Updike,
Jacksonville, OR
Alan & Cindy Voetsch, Ruch, OR
Nathan Wall, Jacksonville, OR
David Willard, Jacksonville, OR
Candace Williams, Ashland, OR
Robert Wisler, Grants Pass, OR
Pamela & Gerald Wright,
Grants Pass, OR
Rhione Zeichel, Jacksonville, OR
Ann Zweifel, Williams, OR

USFS project updates

BY ERIN CONSIDINE

Happy 2024, Applegate community and partners!

We at the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District (i.e., Star Ranger Station) are hoping to provide more consistent updates on projects that may affect you as a landowner, partner, or general enthusiast of the Applegate Valley. To do this, we will aim to provide a short update on select projects in each issue of the *Applegater* as well as website links where you can find even more information. We hope this additional avenue of communication will help increase awareness and opportunities for your involvement.

Where can you find information?

GovDelivery. This is a primary method of communication. GovDelivery is a web-based e-mail subscription system that allows you to subscribe to information on specific topics or projects that interest you. Whenever the US Forest Service or a district makes information on that project available, you will receive an email. You may customize and manage your subscription profile to receive exactly the types of information you desire, and you may cancel your subscription at any time. To subscribe, go to public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new. If you need help signing up for GovDelivery, please contact Amanda Merz at amanda.merz@usda.gov.

Constant Contact. Another primary form of communication, Constant Contact, is a web-based email subscription that allows a member of the public to subscribe to our news-release mailing list.

To subscribe, visit our forest web page at fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou.

RRSNF web page. To view current and recent projects across the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF), please visit fs.usda.gov/projects/rogue-siskiyou/landmanagement/projects.

RRSNF Facebook page. Information shared here will be the same as what is shared via GovDelivery but is generally more focused on opportunities for public comment or field trips. Visit facebook.com/R6RRSNF.

Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAWRP)

The Decision Notice for this 52,000-acre project, signed in August 2020, was a unique collaborative approach between stakeholders and federal agencies aiming to restore ecological conditions resilient to disturbances and climate change. For information about the project, including maps, please visit fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd662282.

Progress to date. Commercial thinning is currently progressing in units 62, 63, 67, 68, 109, 110, and 111. Two hundred fifty acres of felling are complete in units 63, 67, 68, and 110, and 20 acres have been yarded via helicopter, resulting in 485 tons of material removed. Due to recent weather patterns and mechanical issues with the helicopter rotors, progress has been slower than anticipated. However, Lomakatsi, the US Forest Service, and Timberline Helicopters remain committed to treating commercial units in UAWRP. We anticipate progress to increase as weather conditions improve.



View from Elliott Ridge. Photo: US Forest Service.

Shaded fuel breaks

This project aims to reduce hazardous fuels along strategic linear features such as roads, trails, and ridgelines or key access routes. These projects would provide and maintain shaded fuel breaks, allowing firefighters to safely engage with wildfires and provide a safer ingress and egress for the public. Utilizing the public comment period, as well as numerous public field trips, we initially identified four priority fuel breaks: Grayback, Elliott Ridge, Wagner, and Sevenmile Ridge. For more information about the project, visit fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63141.

Progress to date. Utilizing public comments, we decided to make Grayback the priority fuel break and defer the Elliott, Wagner, and Sevenmile fuel breaks. Instead, these three fuel breaks will be incorporated into a landscape-scale vegetation management project called Yellowjacket.

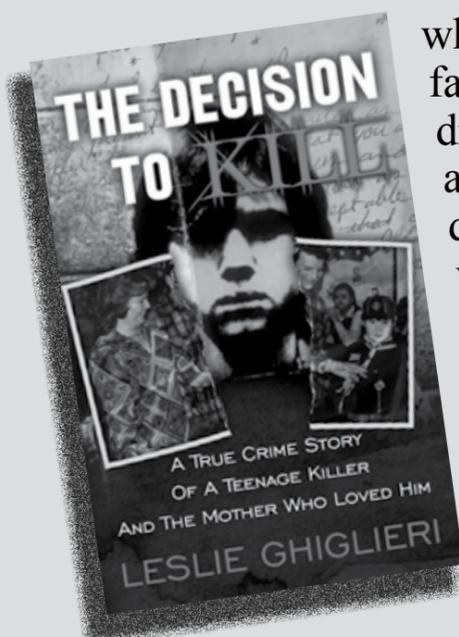
Yellowjacket Environmental Assessment (formerly Little Applegate Environmental Assessment)

Originally, this proposed project was limited to the Little Applegate Watershed, between the UAWRP (see above) and Ashland Forest Restoration project footprints. Over the past several months, we continued to assess the overall landscape objectives. This led us to expand the project boundary to the west, doubling the proposed acres, and renaming it Yellowjacket. The primary focus will be to address the unprecedented Douglas-fir mortality through fuel reduction treatments along main roads (Forest Service roads 20 and 22, as well as any four-digit roads), around infrastructure and communication sites, and adjacent to private and state property.

Progress to date. We anticipate starting formal public engagement for this project late spring or early summer of 2024 and plan to offer several field trips to look at areas of interest.

Erin Considine, Wildlife Biologist
Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
erin.considine@usda.gov

What happened in the APPLGATE VALLEY...



when a Christian family is faced with drug addiction, a mental health disorder, and violence? An inspiring true story of the mother, Cherie Wier, as she struggles to understand and forgive her son.

Retired psychiatrist Dr. Sasser called *The Decision to Kill*... "A thought-provoking read."

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The importance of Advance Care Planning

BY ANGELA FRANKLIN

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a crucial process that holds significance for individuals of all ages and health statuses. This vital step involves contemplating and discussing future healthcare and end-of-life decisions, ensuring that, in the event of an unforeseen circumstance where decision-making is impaired, a designated health care representative can make informed choices on your behalf.



This representative plays a pivotal role in translating your preferences into action. Engaging in these conversations with health care professionals and those close to you to determine treatment preferences based on your personal beliefs and current health conditions is an important step for any of us.

There are two primary documents instrumental in advance care planning: the advance directive and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST). Tailored to each state's regulations, an advance directive serves as a legal document for articulating your goals, values, and preferences, and designates a decision maker. A POLST transforms your advance directive into a medical order, conveying your stance on life-sustaining treatments and resuscitation to emergency responders. These documents form the foundation of ACP, offering clarity and guidance in critical moments.

Beyond the formalities of advance directives and POLSTs, advance care planning hinges significantly on meaningful conversations. However, engaging in such discussions can be

challenging for various reasons. It requires openness and a willingness to confront difficult topics, which many find emotionally taxing. SOLADA (Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance) recognizes the

complexity of these conversations and seeks to create a supportive environment for individuals to navigate these crucial discussions.

SOLADA's mission is to foster open and honest conversations surrounding the human experience of living and dying, exploring the intricate connections to love and grief. We aim to build compassionate and caring communities that provide support to individuals, families, and organizations during the transitions accompanying the dying process.

Interested individuals can participate in SOLADA's initiatives by attending film showings, joining monthly death cafes, and referring to our website, solada.org, for a comprehensive calendar of events and a directory of local support services for end-of-life care. By embracing the Advance Care Planning process, individuals can proactively shape their healthcare preferences, ensuring that their values guide decisions during critical moments in life. Join SOLADA in our mission to create understanding, foster supportive communities, and prioritize what matters most in the journey of living and dying.

Angela Franklin
Journey Home Death Midwife and
Founding Member of SOLADA
info@journeyhome.care

••• BIZBITS •••

Black Barn Farm's amazing and delicious food truck offers breakfast all day, burgers and sandwiches, and cookies baked fresh Monday through Friday, rain or shine, from 10 am-5 pm. Find them in back of Ramsay Realty on Highway 238 and Upper Applegate Road in Ruch or visit them on Facebook at [BlackBarnFarmOregon](https://www.facebook.com/BlackBarnFarmOregon) to take a look at their yummy-looking offerings. Makes you want to drive right over... I just might! (Black Barn will be catering the *Applegater's* 30th Birthday Bash on June 2!)



Las Palmas Mexican Restaurant. Exciting news! The original Las Palmas restaurant, at 210 E California Street in Jacksonville, is finally under construction and should open mid-summer. The Rodriguez family opened a Medford location, at 1501 Sage Road, a few months ago with an extensive and enticing menu. And, of course, in the spring they will be back with

their food truck in Ruch next to Ramsay Realty on Highway 238 and Upper Applegate Road. Visit laspalmas.casa for more information or call their Medford restaurant at 541-773-8226 and speak with Lupe.

MEC (Motivate, Elevate, Celebrate) Disabilities is a nonprofit organization founded by Nikki Sanger, whose daughter, Evelyn, has cerebral palsy. Through her daughter, Nikki saw many things that needed to change in the world of childhood disabilities. MEC's mission is to help motivate, elevate, and celebrate disabilities by educating the public, obtaining adaptive equipment for children with disabilities, and developing sensory spaces across the United States. The Grants Pass School District has recently completed its new sensory playground at North Middle School. The playground includes accessible swings, a sensory wall, and a rubber tile surface. MEC believes that every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn, grow, and play no matter their abilities. For more information, visit meccdisabilities.org.

Ruch Hardware. New owners are Keel and Lauren Robinson and parents Doug Davis and Dora Howard. They continue to offer a wide variety of hardware items, large and small animal feed, plumbing and electrical supplies, propane, and more. 181 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. Call or text 541-899-1113.

Tif's Trading Post. Tiffany Ryan, former owner of Ruch Hardware, continues to run Tif's Trading Post at 181 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch, offering shipping, mailboxes, printing, copying, internet, and more. Call or text 541-621-9610.

Margaret Patterson • margaret@applegater.org

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

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Spring programs blooming at Jacksonville Community Center

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

Like the flowers springing from the earth and migrating birds returning to the valley, the Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) has all kinds of activity flourishing in the spring months. New classes focused on creative and enriching activities for youth and adults are on tap, including music, arts, crafts, wellness, and nature exploration—and more are being added continuously.



Instructor Lori Grable leads beginning yoga classes on Friday mornings.

JCC serves adults and children of all ages, and we welcome residents of our entire area, including the Applegate Valley, Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Rogue River, Gold Hill, and other communities in the valley.

Here is a sampler of this spring's sessions as of publication; check jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org for registration and information on other activities that will be added later in the spring.

Youth programs

We are pleased to be offering the array of children's programs listed below. Plans are also under way for youth cooking classes and toddler-pre-K playdates. (For updates, visit the JCC website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org.)

- Beginning Youth Ukulele (ages 7-12): 2-3 pm March 13. \$5
- Youth Arts and Crafts (ages 6-12): 2-3 pm March 2. \$5
- Bumble Bee B&B with Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (ages 3+): 11 am-noon March 16. \$5 per child.
- Youth Arts and Crafts (ages 6-12): 2-3 pm April 10. \$5
- Beginning Youth Ukulele (ages 7-12): 2-3 pm April 17. \$5
- Worms and Composting with Bugs-R-U's (ages 3+): 3:30-4:30 pm April 22. \$5

All ages

From noon-3 pm Sunday, April 21, the center is sponsoring a free Earth Day Family Celebration with nature-based crafts, educational displays, and a wildflower walk.

Single session adult classes and activities

A series of free "house concerts" featuring local musicians throughout the year is planned. Sponsored through grant funding, the concerts will provide an alcohol-free environment for music appreciation for the whole family.

New classes are listed below:

- Adult Introduction to Ukulele: 4:30-5:30 pm March 5. \$7
- Introduction to Quilt Making Series: 11 am-1 pm March 6, 13, 20 and 27. \$7 per class plus \$60 materials cost.
- Craft: Mosaic Flowers for Home or Garden: 11 am-1 pm April 17. \$7 plus \$18 materials cost.

Ongoing adult wellness programs

JCC offers ongoing weekly wellness classes intended to promote healthy



A garden mosaic class for adults is slated for April 17 at JCC.

activity and social connections. The weekly classes currently include:

- Line Dancing for Fitness: 1-2 pm Mondays. \$7
- Flow Yoga: 5:30-6:30 pm Mondays. Check our website for cost.
- Gentle Chair Yoga: 9:30-10:15 am Wednesdays. Check our website for cost.
- Tai Chi and Qi Gong: 9-10 am (8:45 for first timers) Thursdays. \$7
- Beginning Yoga: 10:30-11:30 am Fridays. \$7

Facility rentals. JCC supports our communities by offering advance reservation rentals of our great room, catering kitchen, and cottage at affordable rates for anyone in our region. Check the rental section of our website for information at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/rent-a-space-2.

A community of givers. JCC receives no dedicated support from city, county, or state funds. Our generous community members keep us operating through financial donations, volunteer hours, facility rentals, and paid class fees. We are always seeking additional philanthropic support from those who wish to see our communities and region reach their best potential. Donations are gratefully accepted online at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/donate.

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 the center at 541-702-2585 and leave a voicemail to receive personal assistance.

Julie Raefield, Executive Director
Jacksonville Community Center
jraefield@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org

A Place-inspired Space

An open house to inspire and support Applegate vacation rental hosts

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Close your eyes and imagine one of your favorite travel memories. Was it unwrapping an Egg McMuffin at McDonalds in Anytown, USA? Scrimmaging for a Frappuccino at Starbucks? Bedding down at a Motel 6 along Interstate 5?

I doubt it. Chances are, it was a time when you felt the distinct sense of place or—to borrow a French wine term—a sense of "terroir." Terroir—all the variables that imbue an experience or product with a distinct sense of place. Loosely applied, it's the way a poblano pepper might invoke the heat of Mexico. Or the way Peruvian flute music seems to contain in its very sound the mountainous acoustics of the Andes.

On April 24, Destination Applegate, a working group of A Greater Applegate (AGA), will celebrate our own valley's terroir at the Place-Inspired Space event at Wooldridge Creek Winery's vacation rental. The rental will be staged with Applegate-made products of all kinds.

The goal of the event is to inspire our local vacation rental hosts to feature local goods in their accommodations.

Imagine the kitchen stocked with local wines and Oshala Farm bedtime tea. On the pillow? A "Mighty Mint" chocolate truffle from our local Supernatural Chocolate company. In the morning? A Pennington Farms tayberry turnover at the breakfast table.

It doesn't stop with food and drink. Maybe a suggested setlist, or CDs from one of our local musicians, like Fyah Harp, and walls adorned with the work of local metal artist Kris Albro, or one of Corbin Brashear's whimsical fiber pieces.

And the bookshelf? A collection featuring local authors, like the Applegate

Poets' anthology, one of Diana Coogle's books, and Tomi Hazel Vaarde's Social Forestry book. And, of course, the place should be stocked with maps of our local hiking trails and history sites!

The accommodation at Wooldridge Creek is the perfect setting for the Place-inspired Space event. The cabin-style dwelling is very "Oregon" and situated in woods just behind the tasting room. Winery owners Ted and Mary Warrick arrived on the land in the late 1970s in a Volkswagen van and lived in it while they built the spacious log cabin.

This Place-inspired Space event speaks to the Applegate Valley Vision, an 89-page document that outlines the goals and needs expressed during the listening sessions AGA conducted throughout the valley in 2019-2021. During those meetings, residents expressed a desire to support our local economy by managing tourism in a way that is low-impact, sustainable, community-led, and attractive to diverse visitors. The Destination Applegate working group has been meeting to brainstorm strategies to carry out this vision. A Place-inspired Space is one of those ideas, and Travel Southern Oregon awarded the group a grant to support the event.

Showcasing local products in our vacation rentals not only highlights our local businesses but also provides visitors with an experience to remember and inspires them to return!

The April 24 event at Wooldridge Creek's cabin will last from 5:30-8 pm and feature sips and nibbles. Stay tuned for details! Email me with your ideas and questions!

Christina Ammon
christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com

We want to hear from you!



If you eat, grow, buy or sell food in the Rogue Valley, we're looking for your input!

The 2024 Community Food Assessment seeks to understand the experiences of those who participate in the Josephine and Jackson County food systems. Your anonymous answers to this 10-15 minute survey will help shape the Rogue Valley Food Action Plan and the future of food and agriculture in the region over the next ten years and beyond.



You'll be invited to enter to win a Rogue Valley Foodie Staycation!

Enter for a chance to win raffle prizes, including a one-night stay at the Ashland Springs Hotel!



rvfoodsystem.org/cfa

Rogue Valley Food System NETWORK
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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Applegate School fosters athletic greatness

BY WILLIAM C. WHITNEY

Nestled inconspicuously within Applegate Valley's picturesque rural landscape, Applegate School might go unnoticed, except for the long fence that lines Highway 238 and the 20 miles-per-hour school-zone signs. But from this small and unassuming school, athletic greatness has sprung, in particular, with four local athletes who have gone on to Division 1 colleges to continue their academic and athletic pursuits.

Applegate School alumna Kaiah Fisher, now a sophomore at Stanford University, distinguished herself in track and field as a freshman, winning the Payton Jordan Invitational in the shot put. She was also the 2021 USATF (USA Track & Field) Junior Olympic discus champ and all-state, first-team in basketball and soccer, helping the Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) Mustangs to state titles in both sports. Parents Dale and Paula Fisher were themselves fine athletes, Dale garnering accolades like three-time NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) All-American in track and field and Paula a volleyball record-breaker for the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Raiders. Both parents were also throwers for the SOU track team. While continuing to pursue her athletic endeavors at Stanford, Kaiah also volunteers her time on behalf of the Sparrow Club, which raises money for children with medical needs.

Another athletic standout from Applegate School and Hidden Valley High School is Sam Vidlak, quarterback for the Montana Grizzlies and currently a redshirt (*see note below*) sophomore. Vidlak played varsity football and baseball

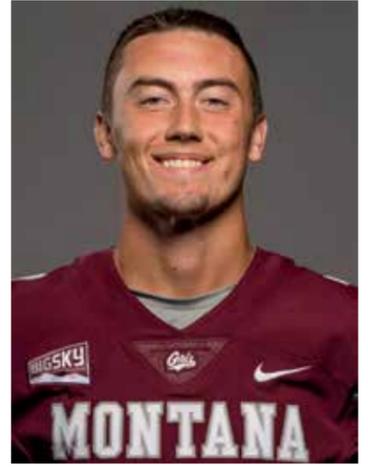
at HVHS. As a junior playing quarterback for the Mustangs, he racked up respectable stats, throwing for over 3,400 yards with 44 touchdowns. He attended Oregon State University for a brief period before transferring to Boise State for a single season. His collegiate journey finally landed him in Missoula with the University of Montana Grizzlies football squad, where he currently shares quarterback duties. In 2023, Vidlak had 56 completions for 566 yards. The Grizzlies finished the 2023 Big Sky Conference with an impressive 13-2 record.

The Vidlak name also emerges in the sport of wrestling with Gabe Vidlak, currently at the University of Oklahoma. While attending Cascade Christian High School, Vidlak posted a 45-0 record in his senior year, with 32 pins and four technical falls, winning 3A state at 126 pounds. Vidlak won the title as a sophomore (113 pounds) and also as a junior (120 pounds). Debuting as a redshirt freshman at University of Oklahoma, weighing in at 133 pounds, he earned a second place in Pool A of the 133C division at the Journeymen Classic and picked up his first career win via decision (7-6) in the second round of the Michigan State Open. Gabe is the son of local wrestling legend and coach Dan Vidlak.

Also from Applegate School is athlete Isaac Hill, who pitches for the Oregon Institute of Technology Owls baseball team in Klamath Falls. Hill, another graduate of HVHS, is in his first season with the Owls and was tabbed as Oregon's No. 1 pitching prospect in the 2022 recruiting class. He also was a two-time



Kaiah Fisher, a sophomore at Stanford, won the Payton Jordan Invitational as a freshman.



Sam Vidlak attends the University of Montana, sharing quarterback duties.

4A All-State selection, helping the Hidden Valley Mustangs to consecutive 4A state titles. He is a former two-time Skyline Conference Player of the Year and spent the 2023 season at Division 1 Oregon State University. He currently studies marketing at Oregon Tech.

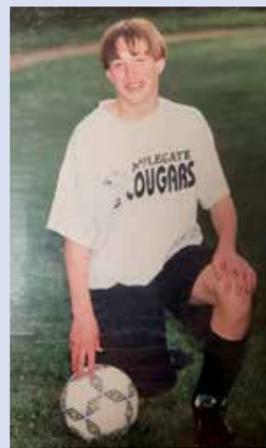
While it may be humble in stature and recognition, Applegate School has fostered several impressive athletic careers, with many other alumni moving on to Division II and NAIA schools. Applegate's Athletic Department philosophy includes

an emphasis on solid character values, sportsmanship, and a commitment to excellence, promoting respect of self and others. By all accounts, Kaiah, Sam, Gabe, and Isaac have surely demonstrated this philosophy—one we might all hope to follow.

William C. Whitney
williewhit52@gmail.com

Note: Redshirt, in college athletics, is a delay or suspension of an athlete's participation in order to lengthen their period of eligibility (Wikipedia).

And from Williams, an even smaller school...



Matthew Tavis Johnson, left to right, got his start on the Applegate School soccer team and is still winning trophies today.

Although Matthew Johnson attended Williams School, he played soccer on the Applegate School soccer team, then for Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) and Oregon State University (OSU).

At HVHS Matt was district player of the year in 2000 and 2001, state player of the year in 2001, and record-holder for most goals ever scored in a career.

At OSU Matt received honorable mention All-Pac-10 in 2002 and set two records: one for the most games ever played and one for most minutes ever played. While Matt was a starter at OSU, the team made it to the playoffs twice: in 2004 and 2005, the first time ever in the school's history.

After graduating, Matt continues to play competitive soccer and has had six championships in the Medford League since 2018.



Gabe Vidlak is on the wrestling team at the University of Oklahoma.



Isaac Hill pitches for the Oregon Institute of Technology Owls.

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Abundant activities at Applegate School

BY RENEE GOURLEY

As the first semester closes and spring arrives, things are abuzz at Applegate School. To celebrate the completion of the first semester of the school year, kindergarten through fifth-grade students took a field trip to a bowling alley and had fun learning how to bowl. Middle-school students celebrated their success by going to the movie theater to see the new movie, *Wonka*. Upon returning to the school, many students were singing songs from the movie. The students have worked hard this school year, and it was great to recognize their hard work.

The whole school performed in the Christmas program, "Christmas Café." Middle-school students showed off their drama skills with scenes inside a café with a Christmas theme. The heartwarming story told of kindness and generosity. In between scenes the students performed songs such as "It's a Marshmallow World," "Hot Chocolate," "Let it Snow," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Students had fun, and it was a wonderful time shared with family and friends.

As the winter break approached, students did various winter- and holiday-themed activities. Second- and third-grade students designed and constructed gingerbread houses. In the kindergarten and first-grade classroom, activity stations were set up around the room, and the students rotated through crafts such as building igloos out of marshmallows, building a bear, creating a holiday crown, and decorating ugly-Christmas-sweater cookies.

Students continue to learn and discover in the garden club with White Oak Farms. They enjoy getting out in the school garden and have been learning

about composting. When the weather didn't allow for outside activities in the garden, students were inside learning about wool felting or making and eating blue-corn pancakes.

A volunteer from Southern Oregon Education Service District visited the younger elementary grades and talked about Bee-Bots. Students enjoyed learning how to program the miniature robots and watch them move around. It was a great opportunity for some hands-on cooperative learning.

During P.E. class, the entire school has been learning the rules and form required to play pickleball. Kindergarten and first-grade students are learning how to hit the ball over the net, while second- and third-grade students are learning how to return the ball. The upper grades are learning game play, and middle-school students are participating in a pickleball tournament.

Each school year we talk about, model, and celebrate various character traits and present awards for the character traits of integrity, organization, courage and resilience, kindness, perseverance, gratitude, and sportsmanship. In the last quarter, awards for courage and resilience were presented to Rainen Johnson, Jayda Scrape, Johnny Spencer, Paige Newell, Jackeline Melchor Cortes, Leah Mondry, Cash Faust, Jaxon Spencer, Madelyn Morrison, Giovana Guimaraes, Levi Hersha, Kyra Atwell, Henry Delgado, and Dylan Gagnon.

The second semester of the school year is in full swing, and students are busy with various projects and activities.

Renee Gourley
Middle School Teacher
renee.gourley@threeivers.k12.or.us

Clarifications about Linda Kappen by Linda Kappen

(See article in the Winter 2023 *Applegater*, page 23.)

- Linda actually started working at Applegate School in the kitchen and filled in as a substitute custodian for several years before finding her niche as an art instructor, educational assistant, and butterfly garden creator and keeper at the school.

- Linda wants to acknowledge her appreciation for some well-known entomologists who worked with her at Applegate School: David James, PhD, from Washington State University (tagging and releasing monarch butterflies), and Dana Ross and others at Oregon State University (butterflies and moths). Linda continues to work with them as she focuses on her lepidopteran pursuits after retiring from Applegate School.

Ruch students help the community

BY TYLER TRIVERS AND HAYDEN WAITES

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
—Margaret Mead

Thanks to a grant from the Ford Family Foundation, students in our Community 101 group were given \$5,000 to give out to a few select nonprofit organizations. We are using these funds to address troubling issues in the Ruch community. Our mission this year is to highlight and help mental health issues of youths. We believe helping other people is beneficial because the well-being of others is the foundation to a thriving community. Two examples of our service to others are a free Thanksgiving dinner and packing boxes of food and other necessities at ACCESS.

Our group has sent applications to nonprofit organizations to apply for grants to help our project. We give money only to organizations that match our mission. We thoroughly read these applications to determine which projects are of need. Our process is completely student-led. Giving money to these select organizations is important because youth mental health is a problem that is sometimes not recognized in our public-school systems. Helping the organizations helps some struggling youth to better their situations.

The students in Community 101 planned and organized a free Thanksgiving dinner at the Applegate Fire Community



Community 101 students serve a free community meal at Applegate Fire Community Center the day before Thanksgiving.

Center. It gave people a chance to come together and have a nice meal. Our team of Community 101 students raised half of the money needed for the event before presenting our plans to Ruch School's Parent-Teacher Organization, who matched our funds. From the decorations to the grocery shopping to the cooking—we did everything ourselves.

"It's putting all of that together and the project really becomes the driving force behind their learning," Assistant Principal Jason Straube said. "Getting their eyes off themselves and getting it out there to the community and serving others is truly impactful."

Our Community 101 team recently visited ACCESS. We participated in service learning by packing food boxes for local food banks and schools. We packed boxes of basic essentials, such as soap, which will also be donated to local homeless shelters. ACCESS operates a mobile food pantry at Ruch Outdoor Community School every Monday from 11:30-12:30 pm.

We hope to plan more community-serving projects this school year. If you

ACCESS welcomes Community 101 students to fill food bags for those in need.



would like to learn more about the Community 101 group at Ruch Outdoor Community School, please contact Jason Straube at 541-842-3502.

Tyler Trivers and
Hayden Waites
Seventh-grade students
Ruch Outdoor
Community School

New Cartoon Strip!

Fourteen-year-old Salila Oldham, creator of this cartoon strip, is homeschooled on her family's farm outside Grants Pass in the Applegate Valley. Salila wants to write, illustrate, and publish a children's book in a couple of years. We hope she will continue to share her talents with the *Applegater*.



Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, from left:
 -Kū-ka'ilimoku was distraught when **Audrey Eldridge** displayed the Gater's report that King Kamehameha did not win the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii this year...again.
 -**Susan Stone and Geoff Weaver** are shielded by the Applegater from the winds at Cliffs of Moher, Ireland.
 -**Cathy Rodgers** gets in the zone reading the Gater while traversing the Panama Canal.



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

■ PARAGLIDING

Continued from page 1

Born from the ashes of the legendary Rat Race, the Applegate Open was conceived by the passionate members of the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (RVHPA) in 2018. Driven by a deep love for the sport and a desire to foster a thriving community, they took up the mantle, determined to keep the spirit of paragliding alive in the valley.

Celebration of community

The Applegate Open is more than just a race; it's a celebration of the paragliding community. Pilots from across the country come together to share stories, tips, and the camaraderie that binds them to this exhilarating sport. Whether you're cheering on fellow competitors or simply soaking in the atmosphere, the event promises an air (pun intended!) of excitement and friendship.

The Applegate Open organizers understand the importance of respecting



Gliders climbing out over the Woodrat Mountain launch.
 Photo: RVHPA.

local landowners and the community. They actively seek input and collaboration, ensuring that the event causes minimal

disruption and positively impacts the region. Landowners can reach out to have their property designated as landing zones

or no-landing zones, ensuring mutual respect and responsible enjoyment of the valley.

Business partnerships encouraged

Local businesses are encouraged to partner with the Applegate Open to reach a captive audience of enthusiastic tourists and their families. Special deals and promotions can be listed on the event website, creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

Come one, come all, and join the paragliding community in welcoming back the Applegate Open Paragliding Race to Goal 2024! It's a week of adrenaline-fueled competition, breathtaking beauty, and a celebration of the human spirit that takes flight.

Ready to soar or volunteer to help? Visit the official Applegate Open website at WingsOverApplegate.org for more information, registration, and volunteering details.

Terri Stewart, AO Organizer
ao-organizer@rvhpa.org

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