

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Applegater

Photo by Sue Owen

www.applegater.org



SUMMER 2016
Volume 9, No. 2

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 11,000

Celebrating
~23~
Years

ANNUAL SUMMER SOIRÉE



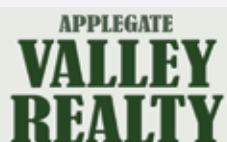
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Is the Applegate going 'Firewise'?

BY PEGGY MARTIN, HERB JOHNSON AND SANDY SHAFFER

One neighborhood on the Jackson County side of the Applegate recently got together to talk about its wildfire risks and how to tackle and mitigate them.

Says Peggy Martin, its new Firewise Coordinator: "On April 13 seven households on the private road off of Griffin Lane got together to work on our defensible space around our homes—100-foot radius around the houses. This was part of the application process led by Derick Price, the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) fuels reduction specialist. We wish to be accredited as a Firewise Community to be part of

this nationwide organization. A flyer [see page 14] was sent out to neighbors to announce the workday. Some of the work that was done during the week included burning large slash piles from thinning ladder fuels in woodland areas next to the houses, raking leaves along driveways and burning large piles of leaves and fallen branches, cleaning gutters, limbing trees up to 12 feet, and cleaning the street along our property line from debris. Derick brought a crew of eight hardworking men to help with some of the properties. They cut down

See FIREWISE, page 14

Meet your new fire chief

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Our new fire chief, Mike McLaughlin, had been on the job only three weeks, but he agreed to have lunch with me to talk about his background, his family, and how and why they ended up here in the Applegate.

Chief McLaughlin comes to our Applegate Valley Fire District #9 with a 30-year résumé of firefighter experience in southern California. He told me that he didn't aspire to be a firefighter as a boy. However, when a friend's father who was a fire captain took him on a full-day "ride-along," he was hooked. Mike calls himself an "adrenalin junkie," and he said that on that day-ride he fell in love with the diversity of the calls and experiences of the job, as well as the "instant gratification" of helping those in

See NEW FIRE CHIEF, page 2



Mike McLaughlin, newly appointed fire chief for the Applegate Valley Fire District.

Want a thrill? Try these outdoor recreations *not* for the faint of heart

BY DIANA COOGLE

Why on earth would a person leap off a cliff "suspended by dental floss and a bed sheet," as paraglider Norm Young puts it? Why would anyone disappear into a cave, jump off a bridge on a bungee cord, or hang by fingernails on a rock cliff?

"Because it turns the movie from black and white to Kodachrome," says Darryl Rasmussen, manager of Medford's Northwest Outdoor Store. "And some people just yearn for adventure."

You can up the ante with any outdoor activity. What could be more mild than a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) on the Applegate Lake—but try going down the Wild and Scenic Rogue on a SUP! Conditions also matter. What makes you faint of heart today might not be the same tomorrow.

The key is safety. If you remember to be safe and if you're not faint of heart, you might try some of these opportunities within reach of the Applegate.

Rock-climbing. Darryl Rasmussen loves to "chase the good rock," which can be found in Castle Crags near Dunsuir, at Rattlesnake by Lost Creek, and in the Greensprings. "You get halfway up a cliff," he says. "It's 1,000 feet below. You have to control your mind as much as your muscles. That's a great satisfaction."

Paragliding (or hang gliding; the difference is in the

See WANT A THRILL, page 12



The international Rat Race 2016 paragliding competition at Woodrat Mountain will be held on June 19 - 25 (<http://mphsports.com>).

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ISSUE

ENVIRONMENT - FIRE - RECREATION

Paul Tipton's basic smoked salmon recipe

In the spring *Applegater*, you read about Paul Tipton winning first place at the Smoked Salmon Festival in 2015. Paul has generously offered to share his smoked-salmon recipe with our readers—here it is:

Start with the freshest and brightest fish you can catch, or buy fresh flash-frozen Alaskan salmon as a reasonable substitute. You can prepare the dry brine mixture ahead of time and let the flavors blend. The quantity of this mix will get you through multiple smokings if you keep it in an airtight container. This is a fairly mild mix, not too spicy, and can be varied to suit your taste.

Dry brine mixture

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup sea salt (or other salt)
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper (substitute or add black pepper)
- 1½ teaspoons ginger
- 2 teaspoons Old Bay Seasoning
- 1½ teaspoons mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

The night before the smoking, cut the salmon into pieces—smaller pieces will get more smoke contact, so Paul usually cuts 4" x 4" or 5" pieces, but you can do a whole fillet or any size portion you want. With bigger fish and thicker meat, put a slice halfway down through the middle of the piece to allow more brine and smoke contact. Put the fish in glass or stainless containers in a single layer. (Paul uses large glass baking pans with 1½" to 2" sides, of different sizes, and stacks them in a big cooler with ice to avoid taking up refrigerator space.)

After mixing the dry brine ingredients, shake or spoon the mixture over the fish with one hand and rub it in with the other, coating all exposed meat surfaces. Be careful—if you apply too much, it won't stick. Cover and refrigerate overnight, 8 to 12 hours.

Early on smoking day, clean, oil and prepare your smoking racks. Take the fish out and quickly rinse the excess brine off each piece, then place on an oiled rack. Let it dry for at least two hours in an airy place so that the "pellicle," a sealing layer, will form over the fish.

For Paul's smoking process, use a live alderwood fire with a little bit of charcoal to keep it going. Keep some wood soaked

in water and a spray bottle ready to knock down the fire. This is an intensive process, and there are many types of smokers that could provide a similar

result. Try to keep the initial temperature of the smoker from 120 to 150 degrees F for the first two to six hours of smoking to allow this cooler smoke to be absorbed into the fish. The slow rise in temperature also prevents an excess flow of juices from the fish.

Gradually raise the temperature to about 200 degrees F or slightly above, and occasionally rotate your racks from hotter to cooler positions. When the internal temperature of the fish reaches 110 to 120 degrees F, start with the first of three to four basting to provide additional flavors to the finished product.

Basting ingredients

- ¼ cup fresh or frozen orange, lemon, or other citrus juices, or apple cider
- brown sugar—enough to make a slightly syrupy mixture of two to three tablespoons
- water, vodka, brandy to adjust the mix
- ¼ teaspoon powdered ginger, cayenne, or other pepper

Baste every 20 to 30 minutes until the salmon reaches 140 to 145 degrees F. Remove from or cool in the smoker until ready for wrapping. Wrap the fish in plastic wrap and freeze it on cookie sheets overnight, then slip it into pre-cut vacuum bags and vacuum pack immediately. (In the rare case that too much moisture is in the vacuum bag, put a little piece of paper towel at the edge of the seal inside to keep from messing up the seal.)

The vacuum-packed salmon never lasts long around Paul's house, but it could keep this way for several years at zero degrees. Finally, Paul warns, be very careful who you tell about having some!

Fish on! For more information, contact Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501.



Paul Tipton preparing salmon for smoking.

"The commitment that the volunteers bring to the organization is incredible."

■ NEW FIRE CHIEF

Continued from page 1

need. Not to mention the great people in the firefighting field!

Mike started as a "paid-call" firefighter for Orange County in 1986. He's also worked as a firefighter at Camp Pendleton, in Big Bear Lake, and as a captain at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in the Mojave Desert. In 2005 he was hired as a captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department, where he stayed for 11 years, working in both the mountain and desert divisions.

Mike said that after 20 years, he and his wife, Becky, were "tired of the snow" and the California lifestyle. A friend suggested they check out southwestern Oregon, so they did last summer. Feeling that the area offered great opportunities for their three children, they moved the family to the Applegate last September.

Mike and Becky have three teenagers, so they were especially pleased to discover the terrific sports programs that our Hidden Valley High School offers. Mackenzie, 17, is an athlete; she enjoys playing volleyball and also runs track. Hannah, 15, is on the school cheerleader team. She loves animals and the lifestyle here in the Applegate Valley. Their son Gavin is 13 and attends Lincoln Savage Middle School. He also enjoys the Applegate lifestyle and is an outstanding (Dad's word) baseball player (look out, MLB!). Mike and Becky are obviously very proud of their children and their accomplishments to date.

Chief Mike says that there are a lot of similarities between Applegate Valley Fire District #9 and San Bernardino County's Mountain Division, where he worked for over two years. Large forests,

open spaces, mountains, homes on long rural roads—basically wildland-urban interface! Both areas count on mutual aid from neighboring agencies. Mike noted that San Bernardino is a large, paid-employee department that can address all types of risks, such as hazmat and ambulance service (much like Medford), while the Applegate is a smaller department comprised of both full-time and volunteer personnel working together to mitigate all emergencies.

And what's been the chief's first impressions of his *new* district? He said, "My experience with the paid staff has been very rewarding. These individuals truly enjoy serving the Applegate community. As for the volunteers, all I can say is 'Wow!' The commitment that the volunteers bring to the organization is incredible. These individuals are truly the backbone of this organization, and I am excited to get to know all of them better as time goes on."

Chief Mike told me that after six weeks, he's still getting used to the day-to-day operations (and finding his way around the valley). He feels that "my experience working in different organizations throughout my career has groomed and prepared me to develop the necessary skills to lead the Applegate Valley Fire District #9."

The chief says, "I was fortunate enough to work for some outstanding leaders while employed with San Bernardino County Fire, and I look forward to leading and mentoring the members of Applegate Valley Fire District #9."

Stop in at the headquarters station in Ruch and meet your new fire chief when you get a chance!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

Applegate authors to read at Terra Firma Saturday, June 11, 1 to 3 pm

When the *Applegater* asked for contributions to its proposed anthology of Applegate writers, *From the Heart of the Applegate*, the literary pieces came flooding in. The Applegate is full of good writers! This anthology contains works of 36 of those writers, represented in 10 pieces of nonfiction, 9 pieces of short fiction, and 45 poems.

On Saturday, June 11, ten of the authors represented in the book will be reading their pieces in the upstairs room of Terra Firma at 135 West California Street in Jacksonville. The readers, chosen by lottery, will be Lisa Baldwin, Dolores Durando, Beate Foit, Lily Myers Kaplan, Haley May, H. Ni Aodagain, Christina Strelova, Barbara Summerhawk, Christin Weber, and Greeley Wells.

Topics of the essays, poems, and short stories range from living in the Applegate to travels abroad, from childhood experiences to contemplations about age, from environmental writing to personal revelations. Some pieces are humorous; some explore grief or love; some speak of our spirituality, others of our relationships with animals or with each other. It's an anthology that reaches broadly, but the biographies at the back of the book reveal that its common ground is the Applegate itself.

Come to Terra Firma on June 11 to hear the readings, to meet the authors, to enjoy some refreshments, and to buy the book. The proceeds from sales support the ongoing publication of the *Applegater*, the quarterly newsmagazine of the Applegate Valley, which is mailed free to all residents and businesses.

The Applegater welcomes Shelley Manning to the Board of Directors

Shelley Manning, a retired salon owner and hair colorist, grew up in Los Angeles County, attended Cerritos College, and migrated south to Carlsbad, California. She and her husband, Cary, fulfilled their dream of being self-employed hair salon owners. Then, "Thirty years went by in the blink of an eye," said Shelley.

By the mid-1990s, Shelley was hired as a guest artist by Goldwell, an international hair color manufacturer. As the job required a "million miles of travel," she had the opportunity to experience communities all over the US and Canada.

That's why, when the time came for the next phase of Shelley's dream—a sweet little farm—she knew the Applegate was nirvana. Ten years ago, she and Cary started combing the valley to find their perfect property. Their search came to fruition two years ago on Thompson Creek.

These days you can find Shelley puttering around in her garden, moving dirt, sprouting seeds, or just sitting by the creek. She has found contentment as a neophyte farmer, but still likes to do a little hair coloring on the side.

Shelley said that the *Applegater* was her lifeline to the community when her Applegate life was still a fantasy. Now she is delighted to be serving as a board member.

• • • • •

As we welcome Shelley, we say good-bye to two former board members, **Richard Goodnough** and **Heather Murphy**. A huge thanks to both of them for their valued service.



~ FINE PRINT ~

WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. 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 Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN), provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newsmagazine, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newsmagazine, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* newsmagazine is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

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

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief.

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 masthead are on a volunteer basis. Credit is given in the issue in which it appears, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

All submissions for the next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline.

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

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Editorial Calendar

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

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We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the **only** newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley.

With a circulation of 11,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

**For more information, contact:
Ron Turpen • 541-601-1867
ron.turpen@gmail.com**

**Next deadline:
August 1**

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our Environment-Fire-Recreation issue!

Before highlighting articles in this issue, though, I want to express my sadness at the loss of Julie Hoskins, our book reviewer for the last few years. Please see her obituary and a review of her book on page 5.

Our feature articles include recreations not for the faint of heart (page 1), how to become a Firewise Community (page 1), and how to prepare your property for the upcoming fire season (page 14). There's also a story about ByGeorge Farms, an environmentally friendly dairy and cheese-making farm (page 8), and an article on why you should eat your lawn (page 9).

June is a busy month for us! On Saturday, June 11, come to Terra Firma in Jacksonville where ten of the authors who are published in our book, *From the Heart of the Applegate*, will read from their pieces from 1 to 3 pm. Refreshments will be served.

And we invite all of you to our annual fundraiser on Saturday, June 25, from 6 to 9 pm, at the beautiful Schmidt Family Vineyards. With music by the award-winning The Evening Shades band, dinner, wine, beer, and a great silent auction, this is sure to be a fun and not-to-miss event!

Enjoy this latest issue. And, as always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.

Barbara Holiday • gater@applegater.org

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Masthead photo credit

Sue Owen provided this photo of Harry the dog romping through her lovely lavender fields in Applegate. Thank you, Sue!

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●●● BIZBITS ●●●

Welcome to BizBits, a section that 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.

●●●

Applegate Valley Realty. The Applegate office has been relocated to Sunshine Plaza, 7380 Highway 238, Ruch. Don and Debbie Tollefson (Team Tollefson) opened their first office in Applegate in 2009 and a second office in Jacksonville by the gas station in 2015. Visit their new office and meet agents Carol Milazzo and David Jesser. 541-261-0949. Call Debbie Tollefson at 541-973-9184 if you need notary service. Applegate Valley Realty specializes in rural properties and works with both buyers and sellers to find or sell rural properties.

●●●

Food House. Offering non-GMO grass-fed and antibiotic free meats, organic and local produce. Menu includes breakfast burritos, sandwiches, coffee, lunch bowls, wraps, sushi. On Tetherow Road behind Williams General Store. Open 9 am - 6 pm on Monday and Wednesday, and 9 am - 3 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

●●●

Fox Run Farm. Celebrating 20 years of growing and selling apples, fruits, and vegetables. Duane and Laura Goodman, owners. 3842 West Main Street, Medford. 541-608-7886

●●●

John Michael Champagne Cellars. Tasting room now open at a new location: 1425 Humbug Creek Road, Applegate. Featuring fine wine and champagne, sparkling sake, healthy gourmet (local, organic, non-GMO) foods, handmade pizza, and music. Plans are to add beer, family games, movie nights, and special weddings. Under new management. 541-846-0810; www.johnmichaelwinery.com.

●●●

Salon 238. On Highway 238 at the Sunshine Plaza next to the Honeysuckle Cafe and Ruch Country Store, Salon 238 opened in 2015. Salon hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 am to 3 pm. Walk-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. If you see the closed sign in the window, owner Sandy Reynolds is probably soaking up sunshine at the river, so call and make an appointment! 541-899-7660. Mention this article for a 10 percent discount on any service for new clients.

●●●

Wild Wines. Summer concert schedule on Sundays from 4 to 8 pm: June 26—Alice DiMichele; July 31—Misner & Smith; August 21—The Meriwethers; September 25—Dumpster Joe. Wood-fired pizza available for purchase. Wild Wines Tasting Room, 4550 Little Applegate Road, Ruch. 541-899-1565; www.enjoywildwines.com

●●●

Women Grow. New southern Oregon chapter opened. Women Grow is a professional networking organization that supports female leaders in all segments of the cannabis industry. info@greenleafab.org, www.facebook.com/womengrowsouthernoregon/ info/?tab=page_info, or www.womengrow.com.

50th Annual Children's Festival in July

The Storytelling Guild is excited to present the 50th Annual Children's Festival! This fun and historic event will be held on July 9 to 11, 2016, at the beautiful Britt Gardens in Jacksonville.

For many years, the festival has provided fun-filled summer days of affordable entertainment for the whole family! The theme this year, "Fairy Tales Across the Ages," celebrates the rich history and magic that this festival has brought to the Rogue Valley for generations.

Children and adults will enjoy over 35 booths with hands-on arts, crafts and science projects. All activities are included with the price of admission! Older children will enjoy activities such as candle making, pottery, and woodworking; younger children will have a chance to make their own puppets, make sand and easel art, and have their faces painted. In addition to our fun hands-on projects, activities include storytelling, child-focused entertainment, and stage performances.

Admission is \$3 per person per day for adults and children. Food is available for purchase inside the festival at our yummy Dragon Deli. The goal has always been to offer an amazing day of entertainment and education for a reasonable cost!

The schedule of the 50th Annual Children's Festival is:

Saturday, July 9, 4:30 - 8:30 pm
 Sunday, July 10, 4:30 - 8:30 pm
 Monday, July 11, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm



Before the festival, please join the Storytelling Guild for its 50th Celebration Art Reception & Exhibit at Rogue Gallery & Art Center, 40 South Bartlett Street, Medford. The exhibit is on display from Saturday, June 25, through Monday, June 27, from 11 am to 3 pm each day. It will include displays of original "Fred the Dragon" artwork by Pat Blair, festival memorabilia, artwork from the festival itself, and a coloring contest for kids. On Saturday, June 25, stop by the gallery to say hello to Rosabelle, the Storytelling Guild's litter-eating dragon.

For more information, visit these sites: www.facebook.com/storytellingguild or www.storytellingguild.org/childrens-festival.html.



— Report illegal burning —

If you witness what you think is illegal burning—of prohibited materials or on a no-burn day—report it to the following:

- Jackson County— Environmental Public Health at 541-774-8206 (press 1 or 5 for front office staff)
- Josephine County—Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at 888-997-7888
- If the fire is burning, also call your local fire department immediately.

Penalties: \$600 fine per incident and further legal action if required.

Prohibited materials: Household garbage, plastic, wire insulation, automobile parts, asphalt, petroleum products or treated materials, rubber, asbestos, animal remains, animal or vegetable matter resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking or service of food, any material that emits dense smoke or noxious odors. This applies to open/barrel burning and solid fuel burning devices such as wood stoves. (From Jackson County Health & Human Services website at www.jacksoncountyor.org.)

Open burn alternatives: Visit <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Environmental-Public-Health/Wood-Stove-and-Open-Burning/Open-Burn-Alternatives>.



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— NOTICE —

The Community Calendar, usually found on this page, has been temporarily relocated to our website at www.applegater.org. We hope to return the calendar to this location in the near future.



Julia Marie Helm Hoskins

July 7, 1942 - February 25, 2016
Artist, writer, world traveler

Julie Hoskins was born in Red Willow County, Nebraska, to Paul and Alice Helm, a farmer and a school teacher. Julie completed her last two years of high school in Reedsport, Oregon, where she met her husband-to-be shortly after she graduated.

In 1962, after a year at Colorado State College, Julie married US Air Force Second Lieutenant Don Hoskins at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, California. They spent the next 20 years traveling to various duty assignments. When their daughter, Angie, and son, Michael, were small, the family was posted to Izmir, Turkey, for two years, where Don was assigned to NATO. They developed a lifelong attachment to Turkey and its people.

Upon their return to the States, they lived in Mississippi, New York, and New Jersey, where Julie completed her degree in English at Rutgers University. She thoroughly enjoyed Rutgers and excelled in all of her classes. Her favorite course was an upper-division class on Irish writer James Joyce; her greatest class project was a 48-page explanation

The *Applegater* bids a fond farewell to Julie Hoskins

For more than three years, Julie Hoskins wrote book reviews for the *Applegater*. She frequently chose abstruse books to review, which pleased us and hopefully our readers, too. In Julie's honor, Joan Peterson reviews Julie's own book, *She Caves to Conquer*, and Julie's poem, *Applegate Orange*, appears below.

We reach out to Julie's family and friends with our sincerest condolences. We will miss her intelligence, her style, and her thoughtful prose.

Applegater Board of Directors

of seven pages from Joyce's difficult last novel, *Finnegans Wake*.

From New Jersey the Hoskins moved to Toronto, Canada, where Don attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, then to Ottawa, where Julie took up macramé. The family spent many weekends in the Canadian wilderness collecting "perfect" sticks for perches for the hundreds of macramé owls that Julie made and sold in local art shops. The kids long remembered returning from those weekend outings buried beneath sticks in the back seat of a small Fiat coupe. Julie's wall hangings won prizes at several art exhibits.

The Hoskins family spent the final four years of Don's military career in Hawaii, where Julie sold real estate and served as a substitute teacher.

In 1982, after 20 years, Don retired from the US Air Force and went to work for Pacific Gas & Electric in San Francisco. They bought a home in Marin County, thinking they would stay there the rest of their lives. Julie had a great job in downtown San Francisco as secretary for the State of California Board of Pilot Commissioners. She was normally the only one in her office, and she often had time to visit her favorite art shops and stores over her lunch period.

Although the Hoskinses appreciated the San Francisco Bay Area, they decided

to search for riverfront property. Because Julie had long enjoyed the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, they decided on 15 acres on the Applegate River. After Julie and Don retired in 1995, they designed and built their dream home on this land.

Julie now had time to immerse herself in books, art, and flowers. The house began filling with books, several thousand of which she left behind. Her iris garden grew to contain a hundred or more varieties.

With their house completed, they began to travel with at least one annual overseas trip. Julie especially loved Ireland and the many African countries they visited, but her favorite trips were to Norway, where they met and fell in love with Don's relatives.

Early in her marriage, Julie began writing down notes about experiences, stories she had heard, and articles that she found particularly interesting. Finally, in 2013, at the urging of her daughter, she put these notes together and published her book, *She Caves to Conquer*. She enjoyed giving talks about her book to various groups. Julie found another outlet for her writing and began submitting book reviews to the *Applegater*. Her reviews, frequently on esoteric books, prompted a number of readers to purchase new dictionaries.



Julie's painting, "A Raven in Boots," was influenced by Brian Doyle's book, *Mink River*.

Perhaps the best of her artwork is her final painting, a reproduction that might be called "A Raven in Boots," prompted in part by *Mink River*, written by Brian Doyle, her favorite living author. Julie and Don attended Brian's talks whenever he appeared in southern Oregon and considered themselves to be his best groupies. She also created and supplied several local shops with beautiful, unique pieces of jewelry.

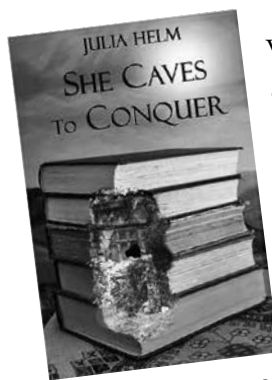
Julie was preceded in death by her son, Mike, who died in 2015. Her son's death triggered a depression that she could not bear. She is survived by Don, her husband of 54 years; daughter Angie Killian, granddaughter Jessica Killian, and grandson Matt Killian of Bigfork, Montana; and her son's daughters, Isabella and Emma Lee Hoskins, of Bourbonnais, Illinois.

"Julie was vibrant and brilliant and astute and absorbed by stories and their power to bring people together... She had a smile bigger than a county, the brightest startling socks, and a wry dry sense of humor I will miss the rest of my life. The world is dimmer without her light."

—Brian Doyle, author, *Mink River*

She Caves to Conquer

Julia Helm (Hoskins)



What a generous surprise to open the mysterious cover of Julia Helm's (Julie Hoskins's) novel, *She Caves to Conquer*, and find not a book on spelunking, but a fascinating story about life in the Midwest and southern Turkey. The cover of the book is somewhat spooky: a stack of old, hardbound books cut through by an ancient cave carved out of Roman architecture. Don't let this fool you!

At the beginning of the book, character Iris Tree reveals something about the author: "I am always called to the still unknown—to the road that leads on—the stranger at the inn—the tune heard 'round the corner." This is a writer who delves into the essences of life and to the true nature of what makes us human beings.

The main character, Ardis, a woman in her late teens or early twenties, is living in southern Turkey as a tutor of English to a family of three teenage children, two girls and one boy. She is called back to her original home in Freedom County in

the Midwest upon the death of her Aunt Cora, the woman who, along with Cora's sister, Aunt Theda, raised Ardis. As it turns out, Ardis's mother and father had died when she was a young girl, and her growing-up years were spent on the old homestead with the two aunts.

Ardis's return to Freedom County brings up memories from her childhood as she explores the homestead house that was soon to be burned to the ground. She reflects on the solace she found in books and how they influenced her as she grew into adulthood. We also learn of Ardis's first romance with a young man and their escape to the Rocky Mountains together. Julia Helm brings this affair to life with her precise language: "That night the words left the page. There were no pages."

Ardis meets a man called Osman through her work in a museum. He invites her to go to Turkey to work as a tutor for a family in Cappadocia. This begins another saga of events with the Turkish people, both in the family she works for and within the community. The bedroom that Ardis shares with the two young girls is adjacent to a mysterious cave (many of the houses in the village are built out of caves in the hillside), where rugs and other items are stored. This area remains off-base for

the young teenagers in the house, but Ardis is more than curious as to what that cave contains. Later we learn that the father of the Turkish family is a smuggler.

Details of life in the village are more than descriptive as we learn of the forced marriage of a 12-year-old girl to an older man. The author relates the screams of the girl in the night and how the groom "strutted around the *cay* house, bragging about his strength and virility." Ardis leaves Cappadocia and travels to the home village of the poet Rumi, where she observes the whirling Dervish in prayer dances. Details of the scenes are vivid and colorful.

Ardis's father died in a fire caused by her mother, who was having an affair with one of the workmen who helped on the homestead. Her mother was institutionalized, and when Ardis returns to Freedom County after her aunt's funeral, she visits her mother in Heinlitz, a small town outside her home town. Her mother barely recognizes her. Ardis is faced with the reality that there is no going back. She conquers her grief.

The novel ends with a joyful, almost accidental visit to Woodstock, where Ardis dances and sings with a new brand of people. "Ardis suddenly wants, after all

BOOK REVIEW



this time and more than anything, to be a part of her own place and community."

The last chapter in the novel begins with a quote from Rumi: "There is a community of the spirit. Join it, and feel the delight of walking in the noisy street, and being the noise." Julia Helm discovers this spirit of community in her novel, *She Caves to Conquer*.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

Applegate Orange

Julie Hoskins

Demand, demand, every year they come.
Tap tapping at my window now; they're back.
Sun kissed, Icteridae are here. What fun!
Like clockwork, orange, brilliant darts of black,
Orioles, a pair, peck at my glass.
They've learned I'll give them string. They make a row.
I cut and fray the line. They give no pass.
They won't forego. They want attention now!
They've learned to hang that nest so high it mocks
Marauding furry predators they foil
With nests like woven pliant swinging socks.
They know to interweave the cord, such toil.
How long—eons—for them to learn these things?
Such joy for me; I just provide the strings.

BACK IN TIME

Learning to sew

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I was in sixth grade when Mrs. Maud Port came to our school and asked us girls if we would like to join a 4-H Sewing Club. Eighth grader Rosella Offenbacher and I were the only ones interested. We were invited to Mrs. Port's home at the Star Ranger Station where her husband, Lee, was the ranger. Since my dad was one of the employees, I was well acquainted with the Ports and their son, Lee Jr., and daughter, Frances, both of whom had been classmates of my older brother and sister.

It was especially nice of Mrs. Port to offer sewing lessons because she was very involved in the community. Not only was she our school's clerk, but she was also an active member of the Upper Applegate Grange and a Home Extension participant. She admitted that after attending so many night meetings, she would become sleepy on her way home and have to pull over to the side of the road to take a short nap.

Rosella and I both chose to make a dress for ourselves. Mrs. Port said that we should try something simpler because we were beginners. She suggested an apron, pillow, or laundry bag, but our hearts were set on dresses. She kindly gave in, warning us that it would be difficult and she would be disappointed if we did not complete the project.

It's strange that I do not recall if she took us to Medford for our patterns

and materials, but I remember drawing a picture of what I wanted my dress to look like. Of course, it was not simple, but that dear lady probably feared she would lose my interest if she did not grant me my choice. Naturally, I chose a striped material, which only added to the difficulty of the project. I think my mother must have had a council with Mrs. Port to make sure I would finish that dress.

I don't remember how often Rosella and I went to Mrs. Port's for our instructions, but after school I would walk there, which was about four miles away. Our first meeting to cut out our dresses was very exciting. Mrs. Port did an amazing job of improvising my pattern from my drawing, and I thanked her for doing that. We then did all the necessary markings and pinned pieces together before basting with a needle and thread. Then it was time to hurry home to show Mother my accomplishment. After supper that evening, a lamp was lit so I could continue basting.

I also don't remember if Mrs. Port had a treadle or electric sewing machine or even if I used it. They did have a generator that was used for lights at the station and their home, so it's possible that they had an electric sewing machine. I just remember her being pleased with my sewing that I did on our "Minnesota" treadle sewing machine. My mother was



Rosella Offenbacher (left) and Evelyn Williams (right) modeled the first dresses they ever made during a 4-H sewing class taught by Maud Port.

a good seamstress, and I, many times, ended up having to rip out stitches after she examined my work. I almost gave up the dress-making project at times, but did not want to hurt Mrs. Port, so I finished the dress.

I really liked Rosella's dress, it being a navy style. I don't remember if our dresses were later displayed at the 4-H fair, but Mrs. Port was very proud of us and took our pictures. Rosella stood by a rose trellis on the left side of the Ports' home. My photo was taken by the steps

near the road. Note the saddle shoes we both wore. One was not in style at that time without saddle shoes.

I regret never seeing Rosella again. She went on to high school, married, and a few years later, sadly, died of cancer. Often times now, when I pass the Star Ranger Station, I think about my many memories of her and Mrs. Port and the 4-H dress-making project.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Applegate School's 'Concert in the Barn' a hit

BY DARRELL ERB JR.

When Fred and Jean Hall throw a barn party, it's something special.

The couple, whose grandchildren attend Applegate School, are two of the school's most avid volunteers. Their daily efforts on campus help support the SMART reading program, the middle school Battle of the Books program, and the recycling program.

Equally important is the annual work they do off campus—producing the Concert in the Barn to benefit Applegate School's Artist-in-Residence program. Producing this event is no

small feat! The barn used is a regular working barn, and the regular denizens—the Halls' sheep—must be displaced, the barn must be cleaned up and readied, and hay bales must be rearranged.

Before all of that happens, Fred and Jean make calls to artistic friends and acquaintances to get donations of art that can be sold through the silent auction at the event.

On April 17, Kevin Carr and his wife, Josie Mendelsohn, provided the music at Concert in the Barn. The Halls invited Applegate School's choir and strings players to share their music and students from Michelle Stone's English Language Arts class

to interpret their own poetry. Students also submitted pieces of art, including an array of daffodils painted by Vicki Distefano's kindergarten and first-grade students.

The event raised nearly two thousand dollars, ensuring that in the next school year, each student at Applegate will have the opportunity to envision and complete art projects of their own.

Darrell Erb Jr., Principal
Applegate School
darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us



Josie Mendelsohn and Kevin Carr entertained "Concert in the Barn" attendees.



Debbie Yerby to retire from Applegate School

A valuable and beloved teacher, Debbie Yerby, will retire at the end of the 2015-16 school year.

Debbie started teaching in California, but worked as a substitute teacher when she moved to Oregon. In 2004, Debbie started teaching at Applegate School, where she quickly grew roots.

Debbie will be missed here. It's difficult to say in words what she does for our school. Her work and her love for this school go beyond professional—they're familial.

The staff will hold a going-away party for Debbie, then go about the more difficult work of educating students without Debbie Yerby on their team.

—Darrell Erb Jr.

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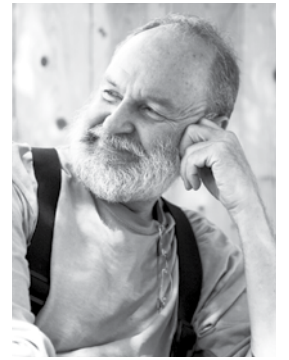
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THE STARRY SIDE

What a summer season!

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Now, rather than huddle around the fire for warmth, it's outside and into the sun. What a difference! What a season!

Seasons rise and fall with clockwork predictability...well, almost. There's just enough suspense to make it interesting. Down on the equator, it's all the same year-round: same amount of day and night, light and dark, and temperature—very few differences. The similarity between winter and summer temperatures was one of the things that drove me from Los Angeles. Things were predictable and boring, night and day.

I love the changes we have, these "extremes." Did you notice the temperature swings this spring? The other day it was 32 degrees at night and 70 degrees during the day! That's a huge difference in half a day: almost 40 degrees. I found myself tucking in around the fire at night and early morning, then running out for the sun's warmth during the day. What a rush.

And then there's the predictable swing of the Milky Way in our night sky, coming up from the east with the stalwart Summer Triangle. We also spin in our galaxy in a predictable way, so the Milky Way is high and visible in summer and winter and low and below us in spring and fall.

As we leave spring and enter warm summer, we've already left Orion out

in the west. Now the Summer Triangle shines with the Milky Way in our wonderful, warm, easterly summer sky.

Between spring and summer appear two dimmer, but rewarding, constellations: Lyra with its bright star Vega (the brightest and first rising star in the Summer Triangle), and Leo the Lion with the bright Jupiter still within it. Other constellations that appear from east to west include the hourglass-shaped Hercules and the crown-shaped Corona

Borealis. Note the illustration. This whole configuration inches along to the west during the season.

Other events of note

June 20 is a full moon and the summer solstice! Actually, it's (1) the longest day, (2) the shortest night, (3) the fullest moon, (4) the most golden moon, (5) the lowest, most southerly moon, (6) the summer solstice, and (7) all of these at once! The full moon is so low it has a lot of atmosphere to go through, making it

appear golden. Pretty cool (warm?), eh?

The Delta

Aquarids meteor showers should peak around July 30-31 and will have no moon, so there should be a good showing. Early morning is the best time, but there will be some meteors all night.

The night of August 12 (and the early morning of August 13) is the Perseid meteor shower, almost always the best of the year. Viewing should be good for this, too, because there will be almost no moon. This one is always best in early morning.

After sunset on August 20, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter gather together in a nice bright triangle in the west.

Watch planets Mars and Saturn play around together with Antares. They actually come together and drift apart several times, while bright Antares maintains its steady westerly drift in their company. (Remember that the word "planets" comes from the Greek word for "wanderers," and that's what they are.)

Jupiter, which goes around the sun in 12 of our years, is still visiting Leo the Lion at this time of year. He's left or east of the not-as-bright star Regulus.

Here's to clear dark night skies and bright stars for you.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2016.



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Farm tours at Sanctuary One

BY HOLLY HIGHT

I remember hearing about Sanctuary One several years ago; I'd known it was a farm in the Applegate and a haven for rescue animals. My mom had a book about how the original farm sanctuary got started, and the topic intrigued me. For a year or two, I made it a New

Year's resolution to volunteer—so long as I could fit it into my hectic schedule. The Applegate was an hour's drive from Ashland, far enough away that just getting there would be a significant commitment. Life was busy, and it was easy to let New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside for another year.

Sanctuary One tour participants enjoy a friendly pig.



Rune Hight is delighted by the goose and duck eggs he found at Sanctuary One.



In fall 2014, I signed up for a farm tour with my son. I was looking at opportunities for my son's education that didn't include traditional classroom learning. A farm tour seemed like just the thing. On farm tours, a staff member or volunteer guides you around the farm, explains how a care farm works, and answers your questions. The tour also includes meeting the Sanctuary's herd of rescued farm animals and house pets.

We arrived on a balmy day, catching sight of all of Sanctuary One's larger animals, which included llamas, alpacas, cows, horses, sheep, and pigs sharing pastureland at the base of the Sanctuary's property. My son, who was seven at the time, pointed at all of the animals. "Look at them!" he exclaimed.

As we made our rounds from the pasture to the bunny cottage, then to the cat cottage and dog yards, I knew this was something I wanted to turn into a New Year's resolution at last realized. I'd been looking for a place to volunteer, and, despite the long drive, I knew that this was something my son and I could do together. In the dog yard, he met a frisky poodle named Gabe and the two became fast friends. It was the kind of

classroom that matched my son's energy and interest.

Thereafter, our volunteering day was Wednesday, and we looked forward to our adventures. I met volunteers who'd been there for years, whose service began with a tour. It's hard not to let the surrounding beauty combined with the level of commitment and enthusiasm on behalf of Sanctuary One's staff and all of the colorful personalities of the rescue animals themselves turn a day into a month, a year, or a decade commitment. It's worth the drive, and, more than that, it's worth the time carved out each week to reconnect and to give back. In our hectic lives, Sanctuary One is an invitation to slow down, take a breath, and focus on the task at hand.

Farm Tours are offered Saturdays and Wednesdays, now through October. All tours begin at 10:30 am sharp. Book your tour online today! Farm Tours must be reserved in advance. For more information, visit www.sanctuaryone.org or call 541-899-8627.

Holly Hight • 541-899-8627
Sanctuary One Volunteer
info@sanctuaryone.org

Who's your farmer and how green is your food?

BY ELISE HIGLEY

The way a farmer chooses to grow food is important not only to the health of your family but also to the health of our environment. As a consumer of food, you get to make environmental decisions by what you eat. How was your food grown? Are you eating what is in season locally or was it shipped here? Look at your food's carbon footprint. As a community of eaters and food producers, we can make decisions that make a difference for our planet.

Although farming is an extractive industry, many decisions made on the farm can make it more environmentally conscientious. Above and beyond growing organically, a farmer decides what kind of seeds to buy, whether to plant a cover crop, whether to till and how often, how to deal with waste, and what kind of inputs are needed on the farm, such as composting techniques, for example. Of course, choosing *not* to use pesticides can make a big difference to our environment.

ByGeorge Farm, a dairy and cheese-making farm in the Little Applegate, has done a lot for the environment by using solar panels and being Salmon-Safe certified. In addition, it has some creative environmental systems in place, one of them dealing with waste products. Example: In the cheese-making process, pounds of whey are generated each day. By feeding that whey to their chickens, the farm is not only dealing with waste, but the chickens are also reaping the added calcium, fat, and protein from the whey. Now there is less feed to buy off-site, so ByGeorge has reduced the carbon footprint of its egg production, not to mention having healthier and happier chickens.

If you haven't had the pleasure of sampling some of ByGeorge's farm-fresh culinary delights, you're in for a treat.



ByGeorge Farm produces many different cheeses, including Swisskiyou, Dutchman's Peak, and Buncom Brie (pictured).



Owners Jonny Steiger and Tyson Fehrman, pictured with Vera Charles the cow, have run the ByGeorge dairy and cheese-making farm since 2012.

The owners and operators, Jonny Steiger and Tyson Fehrman, bring an array of vegetables, eggs, pickled products, and cheeses to restaurants and five farmers' markets throughout the Rogue Valley. They also deliver to grocery stores, including Whistling Duck Farm Store in Grants Pass and The Cheesemonger's Wife in Jacksonville.

The work of a dairy farm goes on 365 days a year. Milking occurs daily at 6 am and again at 6 pm. Currently the farm is getting over 50 gallons a day of fresh milk, which is going straight into cheese production at their

new on-site state-of-the-art creamery. A new favorite not-to-miss is the Buncom Brie, which was named after the nearby last-standing ghost town in Oregon. According to the ByGeorge website, the brie is so good it "will haunt you!"


ByGeorge Farm is located at 176 Yale Creek Road in Jacksonville. For more information, call 541-899-5650 or visit their website at <http://bygeorgefarm.wix.com/growit> or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bygeorge.farm.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Don't mow your lawn—eat it!

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Below are just three of the many “weeds” growing around my farm. I probably could just sit on the lawn with a bottle of salad dressing and a fork.

Purslane. How many years have I been trying to rid the lawn of the lovely, soft succulent plant called purslane? Well, my foolish ways have now ceased. I just read that purslane may actually have more omega-3 fatty acid than some brands of fish oil. This underappreciated leafy weed has much more vitamin A (1320 IU/100g), a natural antioxidant, than most greens. It is also an excellent source of fiber (<http://www.nutrition-and-you.com/purslane.html>).

In the United States, purslane—also called pursley (that is not parsley), pigweed (don't ask), verdolag (I have never heard of this word), *Portulaca oleracea*, little hogweed, red root, and moss rose—is considered a weed, but, as we all know, one man's weed is another man's nutrition. Purslane is eaten throughout Europe, Mexico, the Middle East, and Asia.

Dandelion. The dandelion is often viewed as the bane of a pristine lawn. However, all its parts have an extraordinary number of health benefits.

One study investigated the antioxidative effects of dandelion root in rabbits fed a high-cholesterol diet. Results showed that dandelion positively affected antioxidant enzyme activities and lipid profiles. Researchers believe this suggests that dandelion could protect against oxidative stress related to certain circulatory disorders (<http://www.globalhealingcenter.com/natural-health/health-benefits-of-dandelion-root>).

There are so many tremendous reasons to applaud this “weed,” not to mention ingesting it. Dandelion is well recognized for its beneficial and healing effects on the liver. It is also widely acclaimed for its body-healing qualities pertaining to kidney health, digestion, immune support, gall bladder, inflammation, cholesterol, and the regulation of high blood pressure and diabetes. Some very extensive research studies show that the “dandelion may slow cancer's growth and prevent it from spreading. The leaves are especially rich in the antioxidants and phytonutrients that combat cancer” (<https://sunwarrior.com/healthhub/11-health-benefits-of-dandelion-leaves-and-dandelion-root>). If interested in the specifics, explore the Sunwarrior website, which also discusses the other listed benefits.

Purple dead nettle. Also known as red dead nettle, purple archangel, or velikdenche, purple dead nettle is an herbaceous flowering plant native to Europe and Asia. Although the plant is in the mint family, it doesn't smell minty. It is a “relative of marjoram, basil, holy basil, oregano, savory, thyme, marsh woundwort, lavender, lemon balm,” and several other common plants (<http://herbs-treatandtaste.blogspot.com/2012/03/purple-dead-nettles-red-nettles-health.html>).

While this plant can be slightly invasive, it is not hard to get rid of because the roots are very shallow and can be easily pulled. The word “dead

nettle” is really a misnomer in that the plant is not dead, does not sting, and is not really related to the “stinging nettle,” except for the similarity of its square stem and opposite leaves. I actually chose this purple “weed” because I knew nothing about it, except that I removed it from my lawn as often as possible. I never imagined I might be eating it. As it happened, I was plucking and throwing away portions of my dinner salad.

The purple dead nettle is one of the first of the spring “volunteers” to come poking through the soil. Bees are so happy to have easy access to nectar slurpies when not much of anything else is available.

Since I am not a bee in need of pollen, why would I be interested in this pink-flowering weed? In the 17th century, English herbalist and botanist Nicholas Culpepper credited this same purple dead nettle with the ability to clear kidney problems, to stop bleeding from a cut, and to serve as a laxative and an anti-

inflammatory. The purple dead nettle has been found to have antioxidant, antifungal and antimicrobial properties. It is also an anti-allergen and can help protect allergy sufferers from secondary infections of the throat and bronchi.

The buzzword “antioxidant” is associated with all three of these plants. If you forget what plants and foods have the highest antioxidants, think color. Usually, the deeper the shades of green, red, purple, blue, yellow, orange, the higher the antioxidants. By the way, popsicles, jelly beans, and gummy bears do not count as “colorful vegetables.”

Now, put your teeth back in your mouth and go eat your lawn.

Sioux Rogers
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Sioux Rogers

Photos, clockwise from right, purslane (photo: wikimedia.org), dandelion (photo: gardeningknowhow.com), and purple dead nettle (photo: wikimedia.org).



Blackberries—beast or feast?

BY SHELLEY MANNING

Do you like blackberries? That can be a loaded question here in the Applegate. Blackberry plants are so invasive, you probably spent part of the spring beating them back. But that doesn't mean the fruit isn't nectar of the gods. I made some friends around here by making blackberry pies and bringing them to community picnics. My husband and I were included in several potluck dinner parties, I'm sure, for the potential of bringing a blackberry pie for dessert.

Beyond pie, blackberries are an abundant free resource that can be used in lots of ways. Maybe you already tried substituting blackberries for blueberries in your favorite blueberry muffin recipe, but if you haven't, blackberry muffins are more than worthy of eating! Try tossing some blackberries into your salad greens, along with toasted walnuts, goat cheese, balsamic vinegar, and olive oil for a delicious summer lunch. You can even whisk a teaspoon or two of your homemade blackberry jam into the vinegar and olive oil for a blackberry vinaigrette dressing. Or better yet, make blackberry vinegar! To learn how,



Blackberries can be made into pie, jam, vinegar, and even barbecue sauce (photo: www.gabbysgfree.com).

visit www.carriesexperimentalkitchen.com/how-to-make-blackberry-vinegar.

Speaking of homemade blackberry jam, be sure to make some! Last year I made several renditions: seedless, honey-sweetened, and syrup. Did you know that you can use lemon juice instead of pectin to get your jam to thicken? And a grated apple, added to blackberries sweetened with honey, is another way to thicken your jam. Check out www.oldworldgardenfarms.com for a recipe.

After I had created these jams, I found many ways to incorporate them as ingredients for other recipes. The blackberry syrup made a refreshing soda when I added it to bubbly water. One of my favorite inventions was a sauce I made for pork chops. I sautéed

fresh chopped sage in a little butter, added a cup of chicken stock, reduced it by half, then whisked in a teaspoon or two of seedless blackberry jam to taste. The jam thickened the sauce to perfection, and the blackberry-sage combo was such a complement to the pork. My husband and I have found that blackberry jam with seeds is best for the

peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we take hiking. All those seeds seem to help the jam stay put, so your sandwich is still edible after squashing it in your pack.

You will certainly want to pick extra berries to freeze. That way you can make your jam, pies, and muffins all year long (when it's not 100 degrees in the kitchen). You can also use your food processor to make blackberry frozen yogurt! Just add two cups of frozen berries, a half cup of plain Greek yogurt, three tablespoons of local honey, and a squeeze of lemon juice. What a refreshing summer dessert!

Did you know you can make wine out of blackberries? For the complete process, go to www.wineturtle.com/homemade-blackberry-wine-recipe-in-4-easy-steps. Or cut to the chase and pick up a bottle

of blackberry wine from Wild Wines in Applegate, a vintner that specializes in wine made with wild local fruit.

I discovered the best thing to make out of blackberries just in time for the Super Bowl: blackberry barbecue sauce! I served mine with meatballs, but it would be great with ribs, chicken, or anything else you like with barbecue sauce. When you try this recipe, you'll be so happy you made that jam and froze those berries, so you can make some now and later. Here it is:

Blackberry barbecue sauce

- 3 cups fresh or thawed blackberries
- 1 cup blackberry jam
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 3 ounces tomato paste
- 1/8 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 2 teaspoons powdered ginger (fresh grated works too)
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce (I used sriracha)

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil, then lower to a simmer to reduce to desired thickness (mine took about 20 minutes).

This year, when my blackberry ship comes in, I think I'll try canning the blackberry barbecue sauce for gifts. Maybe I'll make even more friends!

Shelley Manning
manningshelley@icloud.com



Park playground: It's really all about the kids

BY MICHELLE LAFAVE

Years ago, when we first began to meet at the park, moms and little ones embraced the afternoon sun and the cooling, calming waters of the Applegate River. The giant metal slide beckoned us to the shade of the big Douglas firs and pines as the heat of the day set in. Around and around the playground the older children raced from the lookout fort to the janky old swings and back to the slide to climb and slide and climb again. Our group of homeschooling families met weekly at Cantrall Buckley Park after Ruch Library Storytime to share in the adventure of raising young children. The park was our classroom, the river our curriculum, the playground games our recess.

We noticed the run-down bathrooms, the broken plastic on the newest piece of equipment (1980s), the dilapidated swings, the sketchy nature of the beloved giant slide, and the lack of fall protection (wood chips) throughout the playground.

When Tom Carstens recruited me for the Cantrall Buckley Park Committee in 2012, I couldn't say no, even though I was plenty busy with two children aged two and five. My heart had already been captivated by the playground's old-school charm and the river's magnetic beauty. The children proved equally enthralled.

I spent a good deal of time talking to families about what changes they would like to see at the playground. Repeatedly, I heard that the children *loved* the slide, the concrete tunnels, the wooden fort, and the rockets. I heard calls for better swings, more climbing opportunities, artistic elements, benches, and natural features such as logs and boulders. Most people loved the playground and did not want to see it wiped clean and modernized. We decided to preserve and

Children enjoy the new playground equipment. Photo: Michelle LaFave.



Ruch School sixth graders spread wood chips at the new playground. Photo: Tom Carstens.



Newest addition to the playground: Carolyn and Jerry Trotman donated their family canoe. Photo: Tom Carstens.

rehabilitate the beloved features of the playground. We spent a long time talking about "naturescapes" and "playscapes" and how to incorporate these elements into the existing playground.

The dilapidated swings and the old play structure have now been replaced with upgraded models—a taller swing set, to allow for more exhilarating heights, and a more challenging, virtually indestructible play structure featuring two slides and multiple climbing opportunities. The classic metal slide that the park committee intended to keep and retrofit ended up being removed by the county, as it could not be brought up to code. This was our greatest loss, and I believe the children, being quite resilient at heart, handled it with grace and understanding when they were presented with a new, faster metal slide as part of the new equipment.

As for artistic elements, the Ford Family Foundation funded an amazing mosaic turtle with a log and boulder playscape that now beckons people of all ages. If you haven't seen it, stop by and take a ride on the turtle's back! As part of the bathroom renovation project, we will be blessed with a community mosaic mural spearheaded by local artist Jeremy Criswell, the same artist who designed the turtle (see his article in the Spring 2015 *Applegater*).

Local support and interest have driven the entire project and provided over half the funding (over \$42,000), with the balance coming from local foundations.

Applegate School students planted western pond turtle habitat along the banks of the river, and Ruch School kids spread wood chips on the playground. Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District provided funding for educational signage. Jackson County donated the new swings, balance beam, and chin-up bars, plus the labor to install the new equipment. Carolyn and Jerry Trotman of Ruch donated the family canoe to be added to the playground.

Thank you to everyone involved—we could not have done it without you! **Join us for the official ribbon-cutting celebration on June 4.**

Michelle LaFave
humbughealers@yahoo.com

History: How Cantrall Buckley Park got started

Pioneers James Buckley and John Cantrall settled along the Applegate River in 1854 and 1865, respectively. The Cantrall and Buckley family farms thrived for a century in the rich soils of the Applegate Valley.

In 1961, Neil Ledward, then assistant director of Lane County Parks, was hired as the first director of Jackson County Parks. Prior to then, Jackson County had no parks. Ledward began perusing properties near water that might serve as public parks. One of those properties was a forested section along the Applegate River owned by John Cantrall's grandson, Harlan Cantrall.

Local families had long used the "Old Cantrall Swimming Hole" for picnicking and swimming. So Judge Earl Miller, chairman of the county commissioners, began negotiating with his friend Harlan to sell part of his family land to the county for use as a park. To entice Harlan, Judge Miller promised to name the park "Cantrall Park." This was enough to bring Harlan on board, so in March 1965, Harlan and Margaret Cantrall sold the county about 25 acres along the Applegate River. The price, about \$1,000 per acre, was fairly high for those days, so the county entered into a four-year payment agreement.

In the meantime, "Pickle" Taylor, another county commissioner, was working on *his* friend Lewis Buckley (James' grandson) to sell the county some land. Separately, he made a deal with Lewis to name the new park "Buckley Park." In April, Lewis and Helen Buckley sold the county eight acres along the river for about the same price as the Cantralls.

What to do? The park name had now been promised to two different families! Ledward scratched his head and decided to combine the two, and that's how the new park came to be called Cantrall Buckley. After that, Ledward set in place new procedures for naming parks that would reflect a park's particular geographical area.

Soon after, the Bureau of Land Management leased an adjoining 12-acre parcel to the county. By the end of that summer, Sadie and J.J. Ossenbrugge had sold another eight acres. And the next January, Marion and Louise Dunlap joined in the fun with a sale of another 1.6 acres. The county now had the beginnings of a substantial new 54-acre park! Ledward set about designing it, keeping over 90 percent of the original trees. That's why we have such a nice, shady park today.

Construction began. Laurence Espey, then chairman of the County Parks and Recreation Commission, organized the Jackson County Youth Work Program based on the successful Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s. Espey had served as the

youngest CCC supervisor in the nation; he knew how to get this done.

Twenty-eight high-school boys from Jackson County signed up to work in the new park and obtain some job skills in the bargain. There were only two job qualifications: physical fitness and a desire to work. Besides working hard, Espey wanted these young men to understand the need to protect natural resources. They received classes in construction, forestry, fire prevention, recreation, fisheries, and map reading. They worked side by side with county work crews.

There was a lot to do—the big flood of 1964 had left a horrible mess. Electrical, plumbing, water, drainage, irrigation, curbing, and roads had to be put in. Massive amounts of blackberries had to be removed; new plants were bedded. Did you know that a fishing pond and waterfall feature were installed? The boys earned a buck an hour and worked eight hours a day. When they were done, the banks of the Applegate River looked a lot different!

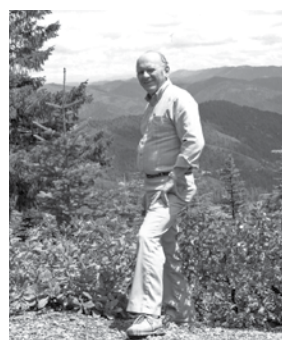
The new park was formally dedicated on July 14, 1968. George Jess, the new chairman of Jackson County Parks Commission, presided over the ceremony. A local National Guard Battalion, the 2nd Brigade of the 414th Regiment in Medford, presented the colors and provided the music. Judge Miller gave the address, but neglected to mention the pioneering efforts of Neil Ledward, who could easily be credited as the "Father of Cantrall Buckley Park."

Ledward took a lot of photos that day. Nobody knows where they are, but our beautiful park lives on thanks to the vision of our county leaders more than 50 years ago.

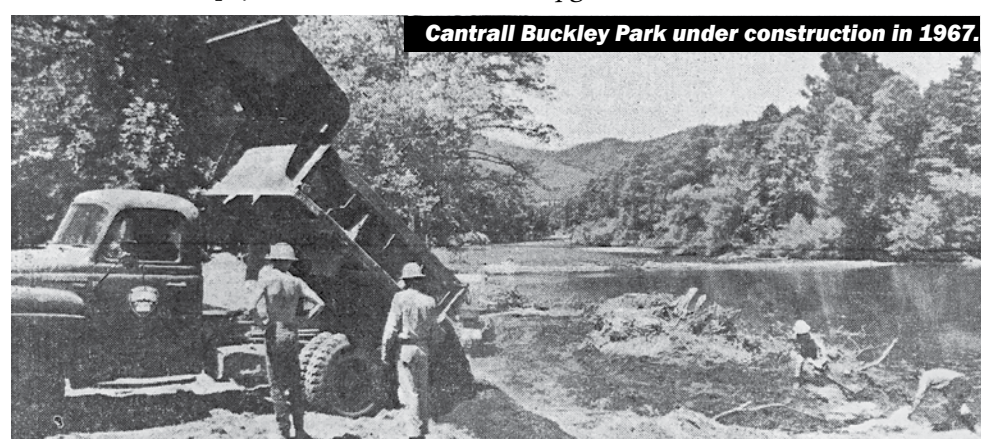
Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025
Postscript: In 1970 Harlan Cantrall sold the county another 34 acres, and the campground was born.



Harlan Cantrall, top, and Lewis Buckley, bottom.



Neil Ledward, first director of public parks for Jackson County.

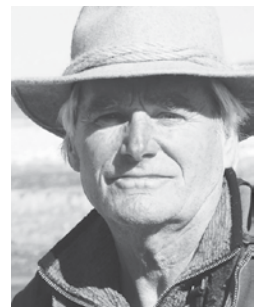


Cantrall Buckley Park under construction in 1967.

BIRD EXPLORER

The birds of spring

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

In spring, birds put on a real show: breeding plumage! There is the spectacular Harlequin Duck that winters along our Pacific coast and then migrates inland to clear mountain streams for nesting and

raising its young. Nests of this species can be found in tree cavities and broken stumps or between boulders of fast-moving mountain streams. Only about 200 breeding pairs of Harlequin Ducks

are found in Oregon, with many of the overwintering flocks departing for northern areas in early spring. “Harlequin” comes from the

multicolored comic servant character from the Italian *commedia dell’arte* in the late 16th century.

The Common Loon can be seen all winter in its drab plumage along our Pacific shores. But in the spring, before it departs to mountain lakes farther north for nesting, the Common Loon puts on its beautiful breeding plumage as seen in my photo. “Loon” is derived from old Norse language, “lom,” meaning clumsy, because this species “runs” on water before becoming airborne. Sometimes, half a mountain lake is needed for a successful takeoff!

There was another awesome late winter bird sighting here in our mountains: a Northern Pygmy Owl, ounce for ounce the fiercest predator to be found. When birding in springtime, I always look at woodpecker holes and often find the five species of woodpeckers common in our region. But once in a while I find a roosting or even nesting owl that has taken residence. Owls do not build their own nests, but use cavities or nests from other species.

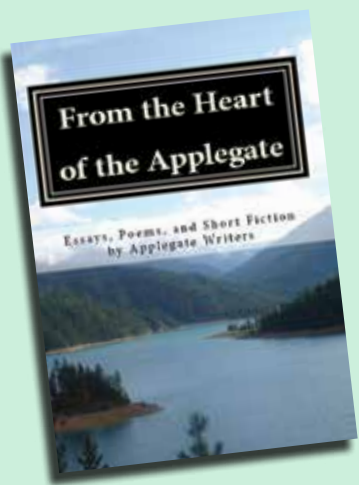
Common finds are Western Screech Owls, like the owls that are roosting now in my garden woodpecker holes. Rare to find is the Northern Pygmy Owl. It is Oregon’s smallest owl, hunts in daylight, and can be seen around birdfeeders where it looks for small birds and rodents. About the size of a robin, this owl is often overlooked when perched quietly on a low branch scanning the grasses below. Sometimes a flock of birds will harass the small owl and alert the birder looking. I captured some exceptional images of a Northern Pygmy Owl with a freshly caught meadow vole as large as the owl!

Peter J. Thiemann

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Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flickr photo stream.

Photos, clockwise from top left: Harlequin Duck, Northern Pygmy Owl, and the Common Loon. Photos: Peter J. Thiemann





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Want to donate a tractor?

The 60’s-era tractor that Jack Shipley donated to Cantrall Buckley Park nine years ago is getting a little long in the tooth. The park needs a medium-size 4WD tractor with a front loader, able to attach a brush hog.

If you have anything like this or know anyone who does, give Rick Barclay a call at 541-899-7155. We’ll send you an IRS-worthy receipt for tax purposes. Thank you! —Tom Carstens



Handcrafted ‘Applecrates’ for sale

Beautiful planters called “Applecrates,” built with donated local wood and volunteer labor, are for sale. All proceeds help sustain the *Applegater*. See these useful and long-lasting Applecrates at Applegate Valley Realty, 935 N. Fifth Street, Jacksonville. The price of a stock planter box (see photo), 12” wide x 22” long x 14” deep, starts at \$40. For more information, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



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HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!

“There are serious consequences if you mess up.”

■ WANT A THRILL

Continued from page 1

equipment). “The sport for the terminally stupid,” says paraglider Norm Young. But if you can keep your good sense, he says (and if you are not faint of heart), “the sport is lovely, allowing you to experience our world at its most beautiful.” Woodrat Mountain, near Ruch, is so world-class a site that “Ruch is to paragliding as Vail is to skiing,” Norm says. He cautions would-be pilots about two things: “Don’t be bold. There are no old bold pilots. And be careful of AIDS: Aviation Induced Divorce Syndrome. The sport is addictive!”

Spelunking. Shasta Lake caverns, limestone caves in the Marble Mountains, Pluto’s Cave on Mt. Shasta, Lava Beds National Monument—caving opportunities from the Applegate abound. At Lava Beds National Monument, a novice spelunker can take easy trails through caves with high ceilings and smooth floors, but those who prefer tougher stuff can enter caves

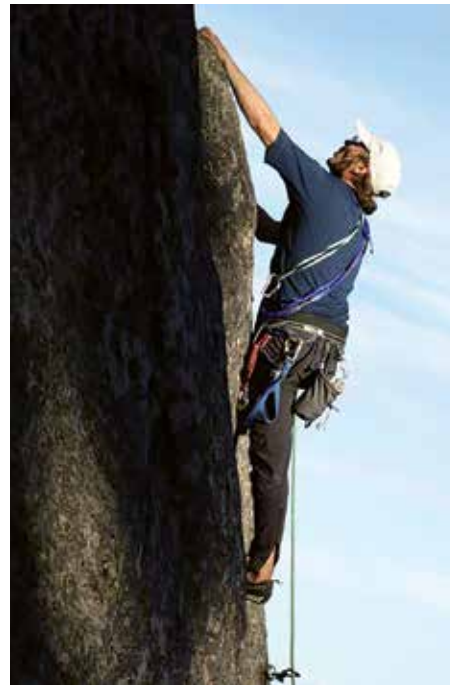
that demand crawling and complete safety gear.

White-water rafting. For the faint of heart or not—it all depends on the conditions, says Sue Orris, who has rafted in Nepal as well as in the Siskiyou. “You have to be so present and in the moment,” she says. “There are serious consequences if you mess up”—which is exactly why she loves rafting. Among the good white-water rivers accessible from the Applegate are the Illinois, the Klamath, the Scott in northern California, and Ikes Run on the Klamath River.

Hiking. Even the faint of heart can hike a trail, if it isn’t too steep or doesn’t have bears, but to hike off-trail ups the ante. “You have to trust your bearings,” says Louann Faist, a valiant hiker from Williams. She lists several dangers: missing a turn because the downhill return is faster than the uphill trudge, steepness, bushes that scratch sartorially unprepared legs and put the hiker off-bearings when he or she has to find a



Photo, top: Sue Orris rafting at Blossom Bar on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River (photo: Mary Korbolic). Photo, bottom: Ziplining on one of the five lines at Rogue Valley ZipLine Adventure near Gold Hill.



Darryl Rasmussen, manager of Northwest Outdoor Store, rock-climbing at Rabbit Ears by Union Creek.

way around them. Louann recommends Mungers Butte for the not-faint-of-heart.

Ziplining. A thrill, but maybe one for the faint of heart. The Rogue Valley ZipLine Adventure, near Gold Hill, has entertained children as young as eight and elders as old as 90. “It’s adventurous and fun,” says owner Lindsey Rice. The first of the five lines is “no fear, just fun.” The fifth line, a quarter-mile long and 300 feet high, provides fantastic views and a big thrill.

Bungee jumping. This not-for-the-faint-of-heart sport, developed by the Oxford University Dangerous Sports Club in the late 1970s, isn’t available in the Applegate. “The only place for bungee jumping in the Applegate is off bridges,” Darryl Rasmussen says, “and it’s illegal to jump off bridges in Oregon.” The one exception is the High Bridge over the Crooked River at Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint in central Oregon, where the free-fall is 250 feet into a beautiful 300-foot-deep canyon. Oregon Parks and Recreation first allowed bungee jumping there in 2015. The 2016 season opened in May and runs through mid-October.

Perhaps one of the members of that Dangerous Sports Club, renowned mountaineer Geoffrey Tabin, best expressed the attraction of these sports. “It’s not thrill seeking,” he says, “but a lifelong quest to maximize life’s

experiences while maintaining deep respect for the physical and human landscapes encountered along the way.”

Diana Coogle

dicoog@gmail.com

Note: If you saw the Courier article in April with a similar title, please know that we’ve been working with our title for months and are convinced it was leaked.

Where to find them

Bungee jumping. Central Oregon Bungee Adventures: 541-668-5867 or www.oregonbungee.com.

Hiking. Luke Ruediger’s book, *The Siskiyou Crest*, has a number of off-trail possibilities.

Paragliding. Contact the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (www.rvhpa.org). Norm Young is president.

Rafting. Many outfits available in southern Oregon. Sue Orris’s is called Ferron’s Fun Trips: www.roguefuntrips.com, 800-404-2201.

Rock-climbing. The Northwest Outdoor Store in Medford has a number of books to help you get there. Visit <http://thenorthwestoutdoorstore.com> or call 541-245-4000.

Spelunking. Lava Beds National Monument: www.nps.gov/labeds.

Ziplining. Rogue Valley Zipline Adventure: info@rvzipline.com, 541-821-9476 or <https://rvzipline.com>.

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Not too late to see Melissa Blue butterfly and Ornate Tiger Moth

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Melissa Blue butterfly

The Melissa Blue (*Plebejus Melissa*) is a butterfly of the Lycaenidae family. Its wingspan is up to one and three-eighths inches. The upper side or dorsal view of the male is blue with a thin black line around the border. The female dorsal view is brown tinged with blue and a border of orange on forewings and hindwings.

The male Melissa Blue will patrol larval host plants waiting for females. The female will lay eggs on host plants or other plant stems or twigs nearby, and their eggs will overwinter. Ants tend to the larvae as they grow, keeping them safe from predators and stroking the caterpillars until they secrete a sweet sticky treat for the ants. (See the spring 2014 *Applegater* for a story about Silvery Blues butterflies and their symbiotic relationship with ants.)

The Melissa Blue can be seen in flight from late April to late September in southern Oregon. They like to nectar on many flowers, including their host plants, which are a variety of legumes such as lotuses, lupines, and vetches.



Their habitats are open fields, prairies, and disturbed areas.

The Melissa Blue is quite common, and its range is throughout the west from Canada to Baja California. The photo of the Melissa Blue on this page was taken on a 30-acre reserve owned by Southern Oregon Land Conservancy along Williams Creek in Williams, Oregon, in May 2015. This male Melissa was friendly to the camera as I followed it from plant to plant on an open rocky beach next to the creek.

Note: The Karner Blue butterfly found in the eastern US is a subspecies of the Melissa Blue butterfly. The Karner

Blue is imperiled due to its rarity and other factors that make it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range. This species, described by famous novelist and lepidopterist Vladimir Nabokov in the 1940s, was classified endangered in 1992. In May 2000, the Karner Blue was listed as locally extinct in Canada. Conservation efforts have been underway in the eastern US for a number of years.

Ornate Tiger Moth

The Ornate Tiger Moth (*Grammia Ornata*) is of the moth family Erebididae. When wings are open, the moth can be about one and a quarter to one and a half inches wide. The forewings have a netted pattern with yellow and black. The hind wings are yellow to orange with black spots, the black mostly fusing together on the wing margins (or edges).

The adult male is nocturnal and will come to light. The female is heavily bodied with a large abdomen and can be

found in the daylight sitting or slowly fluttering about on the ground. The adults can be seen in late spring to early summer.

The larvae of the Ornate Tiger Moth are generalist feeders and will feed on foliage of many herbaceous plants in the spring. The moth's habitat is moist to open forest, grasslands, and high mountain meadows west of the Cascades. The range of this species occurs west of the Rocky Mountains in the Pacific Northwest.

It is documented that this species in the Pacific Northwest is larger in Oregon than in other Pacific Northwest states. The Ornate Tiger Moth in the photo was found in the Klamath-Siskiyou in California just over the border from Oregon. Being so close, it really was large. I found this particular moth in April 2016 near the Klamath River on a road running along a creek. The area had many herbaceous plants. The moth was sitting on the ground with closed wing and looked very fresh. It was indeed heavily bodied, able only to flutter its wings and fly a few inches. I was able to gently open the wings for a fuller view and positive identification.

It was a good find and one of the highlights of a fine spring day observing butterflies and moths.

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute and hosts two-day butterfly courses there.

Photo left: Melissa Blue butterfly found along Williams Creek. Photo below: Ornate Tiger Moth found near the Klamath River. Photos: Linda Kappen.



Cantrall Buckley Park butterfly project: Bringing back the monarch

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Many locals who lived in the Applegate Valley in the 1970s tell us that monarch butterflies were around every year from May into fall and that lots of caterpillars and fluttering adults were seen around Ruch School and the valley. Now, 40 years later, we see very few. What happened?

Several years ago, Tom Landis, a forester with US Forest Service (USFS) who retired after 30 years as a nursery specialist, moved to the Rogue Valley. He saw very few monarchs and thought that they were not very common. After researching, he learned that the western monarch populations had crashed, so he used his nursery training to propagate the food they needed to see if they would return. In spring 2014, he planted a patch of milkweed for the caterpillars—milkweed is their only food source—to test his “if you plant it, they will come” theory. The project worked. The butterflies came to the milkweed patch the first year and laid their eggs. The resulting caterpillars began feasting on the milkweed and made their chrysalises. Monarchs emerged to fly in our skies again. (See article in *Medford Mail Tribune*, September 22, 2014.)

Now, many individuals and groups of people are helping to restore lost habitat and creating way (feeding) stations with native milkweed and nectar plants throughout the migratory path of the western monarch.

Research has shown that monarchs have the genetic coding to come to our area to find their

food. Milkweed has been considered a noxious weed and is often sprayed or mowed. If we want monarchs back, we have to let our wild patches of milkweed grow and also provide more native plantings. Monarch eggs are laid on the underside of the leaves of the milkweed; the caterpillar attaches its chrysalis to the milkweeds, too.

At Cantrall Buckley Park, a project is in the planning stage to create a monarch way station in the park that will help support habitat and be an educational tool to encourage others to join in the effort to restore habitat throughout the Applegate Valley. This project is a joint effort of USFS, Applegate Valley Garden Club, Applegate Elementary School students, and Linda Kappen of Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates (SOMA).

The migration of the monarch is amazing, and the part we play in habitat restoration is important for their survival. Monarchs, which are really a tropical butterfly, have several generations of egg-to-adult life cycles of six to ten weeks each in order to be able to migrate from the edge of Canada to southern California. A typical life cycle of an egg is three to four days, a larvae/caterpillar's is two to four weeks, a chrysalis's is two to four weeks, and an adult butterfly's life-span is from two to four weeks.

Monarch breeding activity in Southern Oregon is from May into late fall, when the butterflies migrate to warmer locations. Monarchs are in our area for the longest period of time. Also,



Over two years ago, owners of a property behind Ruch School saw milkweed growing in a pasture that had been kept mowed and decided to let it grow.

Last summer they had lots of caterpillars and adults in the native milkweed. Monarch photo: Erin Galbraith. Caterpillar photo: Jamie Lusch, Mail Tribune.

the fourth generation born in southern Oregon is called the “Super Generation” because its life cycle is the longest at seven to nine months. Then they fly from our region to southern California for overwintering in a warmer climate, and in the spring they lay their eggs to start the migration cycle north again.

Timing is important, so this fall—with the park setting as protection for the monarch and with milkweed in the ground, pollinator plants in place, and a “puddling” area for moisture and minerals—visit the park and see a monarch way station in action.

Janis Mohr-Tipton

541-846-7501

Applegate Valley Garden Club
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

For more information

- Ecoregional Planting Guides—www.pollinator.org/guides.htm
- Facebook: Milkweeds for Monarch Waystations and Monarch Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest
- Local native milkweed plants: Applegate School Milkweed Gardens—Linda Kappen at 541-846-6280
- Local native milkweed and nectar plants: Forest Farm—541-846-7269, www.forestfarm.com; Goodwin Creek Nursery—541-846-7357, www.goodwincreekgardens.com; Shooting Star Nursery—541-840-6453, www.roguevallynursery.com.
- Local native milkweed seed and plants: Klamath-Siskiyou Seeds—www.klamathsiskiyouseeds.com
- Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates—<http://somonarchs.org>

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Big puppy and little stuff

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Can you believe it? Our puppy Maggie turned one year old on April Fool's Day! No joke: our 86-pound Akita pup is huge! And since larger breeds stay puppies longer than smaller breeds, we'll continue to enjoy her sweet, playful personality for some time.

Maggie has definitely joined our family "pack." We enjoy the little things that she does: sharing her toys, keeping herself occupied when we're outside working, and letting us know that the wild turkeys are on the deck again. She loves to travel, especially to the beach!

Of course, going for walks in our woods is the best. Maggie notices the smallest things—spiders, butterflies, a hawk up riding the lofts. Watching her try to climb a tree to catch a lizard is just hilarious! Isn't it always the little things in life that mean the most?

And yes, *this is the time of year* when all of us in the Applegate need to address those annual "little things": leaves, pine needles, weeds. Even though here in Buncom we've had *over 29 inches* of rain since the "rain year" began on the first of October, *we are not guaranteed a free pass* during fire season! We could still have plenty of wildfires this summer, caused by humans and lightning.

Why are fine fuels so important? Because, *over 90 percent* of homes that burn in a wildfire do so because of flying embers, *not* from the main front of a fire. Embers or firebrands can travel up to a mile ahead of a nearby wildfire. Where they land is a crapshoot; however, what they find if they land on or near your house *is something you can affect!*

If you're like us, you didn't fully understand or appreciate the threat of wildfire when you bought or built your home in the Applegate. A home's location, design, and building materials all play a role in how fire-safe the home can be.

We can't change the location of our house. So, we make sure our driveway is well-marked and vegetation is thinned for safe access/egress. Living in the woods, we thin our trees 30-100 feet out from the house, limb up ladder fuels, and remove dead materials. Extra thinning can also help mitigate a steep slope or the not-so-safe location of a propane tank.

The location of your home in relation to other buildings (your "home ignition zone" or HIZ) is important: *radiant heat* causes fire to spread from structure to structure. Thirty feet is the *minimum* safe distance

to keep between buildings, whether it's a garage, shed or neighboring houses. If you haven't already, please define *your* HIZ right away, so that you can make sure you're being as safe as possible this summer. Then, keep it clean and clear!

We usually can't change our home's building design, so we have to be aware of and inspect eaves, overhangs, open spaces under decks, "valleys" in the roof, curved tile roofing, and re-entrant (interior) corners of the building. Debris from birds or insects, as well as dry leaves, needles, twigs, or moss, can all collect in these spots, providing beds of fuel for embers. Remove all fine fuels **prior to and during** fire season.

Building materials can, of course, be replaced as a home ages. Increasing a roof's fire rating, and changing to double-pane windows are great improvements. Siding and deck materials should be clean and well maintained; if replacement is needed, a fire-resistant alternative should be considered.

Mitigation and maintenance are the operative words here. If you can't immediately change out a building



Maggie, the big tree-climbing puppy, is after another lizard.

feature to something more fire-safe, then keep it in good shape. Do *at least annual* vegetation thinning and/or maintenance work. Lastly, be aware of and monitor your vulnerable spots during fire season. And have a hose ready!

Lots of "little things" to consider for a safe fire season in the Applegate. I sure wish Maggie could help us haul slash!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

"This has been a great opportunity to bring the neighborhood together."

■ FIREWISE

Continued from page 1

manzanita and other ladder fuels next to the homes. They were greatly appreciated by all the neighbors. Carey Chaput from the Applegate Fire Department also came by to offer her support and expertise. We all got together for a barbecue lunch to celebrate our hard work. This has been a great opportunity to bring the neighborhood together to work on our defensible space and also take time to visit with each other. We look forward to receiving our certification soon."

What is a Firewise Community? Simply, a group of homeowners who live in the wildland-urban interface and want to be better prepared against losing their homes

to wildfire. They work together with local agencies (ODF, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, the county, etc.) as appropriate to develop a plan that addresses and mitigates their risks; they form a leadership board; they pledge to maintain work annually; they eagerly share experiences with other community members who are interested in being Firewise, and they eventually get national Firewise Community recognition.

There are no size requirements—7, 20 or 50 homes all qualify. A stretch of road, a cluster of homes, a neighborhood or small town could all work

together to be more fire-safe, prepared, and Firewise by taking these steps.

Step 1: An interested rural landowner (someone like you) starts talking to neighbors about working together to make their neighborhood homes more fire-resilient. Or, they call ODF to talk about how to get started, to find out what the process is, or exactly what they should say to their neighbors and friends to gain interest.

Step 2: The group of interested homeowners meets to talk about the process of becoming Firewise. A board is elected to lead the group. Some ideas, concerns, or specific tasks might be initially identified as work to be accomplished.

The group agrees to participate in this process, to help with the work, and to maintain the work annually. The board contacts the local ODF Firewise-fuels specialist and provides the participants' information. A site visit by ODF is then scheduled.

Step 3: ODF contacts the neighbors, makes appointments, and conducts the neighborhood Risk Assessment: where are the fuels, what are the threats, what needs to be accomplished to make this community fire-safe and Firewise?

Step 4: An action plan is agreed upon by all, a date is set for the work party, and the work is done by a crew from ODF and the neighbors. Everyone relaxes at the end of that work day with a good meal, good friends, and a sense of accomplishment.

Step 5: ODF submits the neighborhood, their assessment, and their completed work to the national Firewise organization for accreditation.

Step 6: Accreditation is received, along with Firewise Community signs to post, and a date for next year's work party is set!

Southwest Oregon's ODF currently has grant dollars to cover the costs of its work crews! So, if you are interested in learning more, contact Herb Johnson (Jackson County) at 541-664-3328 or Joe Pryts (Josephine County) at 541-474-3152. And talk to your neighbors!

Peggy Martin
Herb Johnson • 541-664-3328
herb.a.johnson@oregon.gov
Sandy Shaffer • sassyoneor@gmail.com
For more information about Firewise Communities, including the Recognition Program, visit www.firewise.org.



This ODF work crew helped seven households off Griffin Lane clean up defensible space in order to be accredited as a Firewise Community.

Griffin Lane-Anderson Firewise Community Work Project
April 13, 2016
Spend the morning working on your defensible space; 30-100' around your home.

Are your gutters clean?
Twigs picked up next to your home?
Leaves picked up next to your home?
Trees limbed up to 12'?
Is your portion of Griffin Lane clean from debris?

Reward yourself for all your hard work or work that's already done.
Workers' barbecue at Peggy's about 12:30pm.
Beer & brats will be provided.
Bring a side or a sweet to share if you wish.
BOYS if you don't like beer! RSVP to Peggy

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— Ruch Library —

Through July 7, Ruch Library is hosting “Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine,” a traveling exhibit tracing the history of wine in Oregon. Through it you can learn about the flourishing Oregon wine industry through text, photos, graphics, and interactive experiences. You can scroll through a digital catalog of wine-related objects dating back to the 19th century, as well as view a display of local wine-related items. Come celebrate the wonders of Oregon wine and the people who make it possible.

Summer Reading runs from July 11 to August 13, and there is something for all ages from 0 to 99. The theme, “On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!” is all about fitness, both physical and mental. Starting June 11, come in to sign up and begin reading to earn incentives, prizes, and gift certificates. We have the following programs lined up for the summer, most of which are perfect for the whole family:

Tuesday, June 14, 10 to 11 am. Troubadour Rich Glauber returns to the library with his wildly popular movement program for children of all ages. (That includes Grandma, too, if she wants to boogie).

Saturday, June 18, 2 to 4 pm. Blake Weller, director of the Voices of the

Applegate, will be teaching world folk dancing for all ages.

Tuesday, June 21, 2 to 4 pm. Teen program making a “buff” to versatile head scarf, sweatband, or even a hair tie, and essential oils. The class size is limited, so please preregister at the library.

Thursday, June 30, 2 pm. John Jackson returns with one of his ever-popular programs about reptiles and amphibians. This program is certain to delight all ages.

Thursday, July 7, 1 to 4 pm. Drop-in Zentangle! If you love to doodle, this program is for you! Taught by Zentangle artist Krista Kohler, this will be fun for the whole family.

Thursday, July 28, 1 to 4 pm. Drop-in origami is for all ages and all skill levels.

Every Tuesday at 10:15 am is Babies and Wobblers Storytime, which includes early literacy songs, rhythms, and books for wee ones from zero to three years of age. Also on Tuesdays is Preschool Storytime at 11:30 am, followed by a craft.

See you at the library!

For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

— Williams Branch Library —

Adopt-an-Hour Program a success

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries’ fourth annual Yard Sale Fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to the community for raising \$1,614 toward the Adopt-an-Hour Program and to Herb Pharm for matching the community’s contribution. The Adopt-an-Hour Program guarantees that the Williams branch Library will remain open three extended hours per week for another year. Anyone interested in contributing to the Adopt-an-Hour Program, visit www.josephinelibrary.org to make a secure online donation or stop by the Williams branch Library.

“On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!”

The children’s Summer Reading Program begins June 18 and runs through July 30. Children from birth to 12 years old can enjoy creative crafts and storytelling and play “reading bingo” for prizes. Gardening projects are also available. Teens can earn a weekly raffle ticket for each book read and the chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to Oregon Books and Games every week. Parents who attend with their children every week have a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Fred Meyer.

Numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents “summer reading loss,” which is cumulative. By the end of sixth grade, children who have lost reading skills over the summer are more likely to be *two years behind* their classmates. Josephine Community

Libraries offers a *free* Reading Program for children and teens during regular library hours throughout the summer. Families may sign up and attend programs at any of the four library branches: Williams, Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, and Wolf Creek.



Ongoing programs

Storytime is every Wednesday at 3:30 pm, followed by a craft project. Infant and Toddler Storytimes are scheduled to begin soon!

Volunteers are always needed

The Williams branch Library is currently in need of volunteers to work the front desk, help with the children’s Summer Reading Program, and support Williams Friends of the Library events. Everyone is welcome. Opportunities include helping with children’s programs, special one-time events, and tasks to keep our branch vibrant and strong.

To join Williams Friends of the Library, volunteer, or share your skills with local children, please stop by the Williams branch. Library hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm.

For more information, contact branch manager Danielle Schreck at dschreck@josephinelibrary.org or call the Williams branch at 541-846-7020.

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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate Valley Community Grange —

The Spring Fair on April 17 at the Grange was a very successful event, with lots of people stopping by to check out the art show, vendors, plant sales, informational booths, play space for kids, great food, great music, and a chance to bump shoulders with neighbors and friends. The weather was just right, and everyone enjoyed their time there.

This is a major part of what our local Grange is all about—providing events for the local community to enjoy and providing a rental space for a wide variety of community activities and organizations, as well as being open without cost for nonprofit and community awareness meetings. Our members are active in many other community organizations, and our basic goal is to better our community in any way we can.

To the point, our active members are old or elderly (don't

say that to their faces), and we need more active members to keep the Grange open to do what we do for the community. We have monthly potlucks at 5:30 pm on the second Sunday of each month, followed by a one-hour meeting at 6:30 pm. We're a friendly group, no biters, the food is good, the meetings brief and civil, and we'd welcome any input of energy. Crucial positions on the board need to be filled by October in order for the Grange to continue operation.

If you care about what the Grange does in the Applegate, please consider joining a great group of people who care about you and what happens right here in our community.

For more information about the Applegate Grange, contact Paul Tipton or Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501 or applegategrange@gmail.com. Our new mailing address is PO Box 1341, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

— Applegate Food Pantry —

As always, the Applegate Food Pantry thanks all of the volunteers who help make it possible to run the pantry.

Reminder. Please drive slowly through school property. If you bring your kids or pets, they must stay with you at all times.

Hours of operation. Mondays

from 9:30 to 11:00 am. The pantry is closed the last Monday of every month when school is in session.

Location. Back of the Ruch School cafeteria off Highway 238 in Ruch.

For more information, contact Charlotte Knott, Applegate Food Pantry Manager, at 541-899-8381.

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

At a recent meeting, the board of McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) decided to cancel the annual McKee Bridge Day for 2016, usually held on the second Saturday in June.

However, plans are to hold a *huge* celebration next year to commemorate the centennial of the construction of the bridge. That celebration will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017, and will feature food, live music, demonstrations, vendor booths, as well as historic displays about the bridge and its function in the community through the years.

We hope you'll join us then, but meanwhile, stop by the bridge and enjoy some time in the park by the river. See if you can spot the restoration

work changes done last year to reopen the bridge to public use. Some are very visible; some are not so easy to spot.

The MBHS Board of Directors has some positions to fill. If you have an interest in local history or would like to give us a hand with the maintenance of the bridge or help with the preparations for the centennial celebration next June, we can use your help. We meet only a few times a year, and our main purpose is to maintain and promote the bridge and its connection to local history, as well as putting on the annual McKee Bridge Day.

Please consider joining us. Contact Bob Van Heuit at 541-499-6132 or Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501.

— Pacifica —

In addition to its educational pursuits and wildlife habitat, Pacifica has assumed the role of a park for the Applegate Valley community and beyond. It's gratifying to see more people and their pets using the property, which is open during daylight hours for hiking, horse riding, catch-and-release fishing, bird and nature watching, disc golf (bring your own), and enjoyment of the scenery and solitude,

Now available: There are so many wildflowers and birds out right now. To help you enjoy them, borrow-and-return mini field guides are available at each of the main kiosks. The only restrictions involve giving wedding parties and their guests exclusive use of the center of the property (watch for signs at Pacifica's entrance and postings on Pacifica's website). We ask that their privacy be respected, with no fishing on event days after 1 pm.

Even on event days, however, you can now hike and ride horses because there are new trails around the perimeter of the property. Please park (horses and hikers) at the first parking area just inside the main entrance (West Trailhead) and stay away from the area around the Cedar Center and the Pond House.

All of this is available free to users, although contributions to help with maintenance of the grounds are needed and greatly appreciated. Brown donation boxes can be found at the West Trailhead and the kiosk near the horse-trailer parking area in the center of the property, or mail your donation to Pacifica, PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544.

Another hard-won small step forward: The Cedar Center has long had a drop-off where floor levels did not match. But now that hazard has been eliminated (we're thankful that no one broke an ankle all these years), thanks to funding from the Carpenter Foundation, a generous discount on materials from Lippert's Carpet One, and the efforts of Pacifica's own board member and volunteer extraordinaire Rodger Miller. This new surface will be easy to clean and should last many years (see photo).

While the Cedar Center "barn," including the recording studio, was built for Steve Miller, we have never been able to reach him to hear his tales of the years (1976-1986) that he owned the property that is now Pacifica. We've been fortunate



New flooring in the Cedar Center thanks to the Carpenter Foundation, Lippert's Carpet One, and Rodger Miller.

to have Wes Lippert come to regale us with his stories of growing up on the cattle ranch in the 1950s and 1960s and have heard from others relating what occurred on the property during the years before 1976. But the Steve Miller era has spawned only hearsay about the happenings then. The Steve Miller Band has performed in southern Oregon every few years (Britt Festival) and is scheduled again for September 1, 2016. We've tried through the years to find a way to contact the rock star, but have never been successful. We'd really like to have him see what's become of the ranch that he once owned and would love to hear how the property changed during his ownership. So if anyone reading this article knows of a way to reach Mr. Miller to invite him to tour Pacifica this year (he has two days off between the Britt show and his next gig in San Francisco on September 4), please let us know by emailing info@pacificagarden.org or calling 541-846-1100. **If someone can arrange for Steve to tour Pacifica or accompany him, we are offering a reward of a night's stay in the historic Pond House!**

Pacifica is doing some interesting and exciting things, and we can use your help! We know there are lots of interesting and exciting people out there...please join us! (That's our wish list for this issue, though we wouldn't turn down a golf cart if one were offered!) If you have an hour a week or month available to help enhance a beautiful community place, please call 541-846-1100 or email info@pacificagarden.org. We are located at 14615 Water Gap Road in Williams. Thank you!

Peg Prag • 541-846-1100
peg@pacificagarden.org

Give your kids a summer to remember!

At Pacifica's Day Camps this summer, community experts will be teaching their skills and specialties to our youth. Join us for a wide range of exciting day camps. Scholarships are available, as well as discounts for siblings and multiple camp sign ups. Times are 9 am to 2 pm, and the cost is \$150 per camp.

June 20 - 23: Wilderness Camp (ages 6-12), Caleb Schulten
June 27 - 30: Craft Camp (ages 6-12), Morgan Breeze and Leah Markman
July 5 - 8: Outdoor Games Camp (ages 6-10), Patty Goodin
July 11 - 14: Silat Martial Arts Camp (ages 11-16), Matt Edwards, Summer Kniveton
July 18 - 21: Art Camp (ages 8-12)
July 25 - 28: Potpourri Camp—Arts, crafts and music (ages 6-12), Zuki
August 1 - 4: Rock Band Music Camp (ages 10-16), Brian Risling, Patty Goodin
August 8 - 11: Rock Band Music Camp (ages 10-16), Brian Risling, Patty Goodin
August 15 - 18: Yoga Camp—Playful Practice (ages 6-12), Clair Highfield, Allee Gus
August 22 - 25: Acting Camp—Dramatic Adventures (ages 8-18), Shane Skinner
August 29 - September 1: Sewing Nature Spirit Camp (ages 8-14), Serene Dussell

Sign up now. Print out an enrollment form from our website at www.pacificagarden.org/caterpillar/currentnaturecamps, and send payment and form to Pacifica, PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544 two weeks before the camp start date. For more information, email vanessa@pacificagarden.org or call 541-846-1100.

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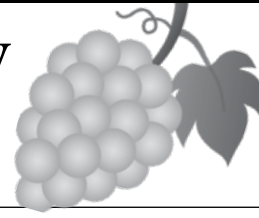
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GRAPE TALK

Tasting tours are a fun and safe way to enjoy Applegate Valley wines



Debbie Tollefson

making team, so make sure you book early for limited spots by emailing tastingroom@troonvineyard.com.

So gather some family and friends together and plan a fun day of tasting in the Applegate Valley the safe way with the wine tour of your choice. Have a fun wine-filled summer!

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

Bacchus Winery Tours provides a 2014 Springer that can seat up to 10 persons.

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

My husband Don and I just returned from a great trip to Portland and the Oregon coast. We stayed in the wonderful Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg, which is in the middle of a vineyard in the center of the northern portion of the Willamette Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA). After some wine tasting and little food, I realized that I should not be driving. The solution to this dilemma is to have a designated driver, of course, but that driver can't enjoy the great wines with me. This problem of wine tasting and driving got me thinking about what kind of tours might be available in the Applegate Valley so that everyone can join in on the fun.

I discovered that there are all kinds of tours for Applegate Valley wine tasting that allow you to enjoy the wines and not endanger yourself or others by driving. There are trolleys and limos and small buses and large buses, tours that include picnic lunches and snacks, and even chauffeured tours with wine experts to enlighten you along the way. Be sure to ask if tasting fees and gratuities are included in tour prices.

Allaboard Trolley Tours (www.allaboardtrolley.com) offers a five-hour tour of four wineries at \$40 per person with a maximum of 15 passengers. The trolley looks like a fun way to take in the wonderful scenery, too. This year Allaboard Trolley is adding a second trolley, so now they have "Molly" and "Dolly" as fun possibilities for tasting transportation.

Bacchus Wine Tours (www.bacchuswinerytours.com) has a featured tour for 2016 that includes stops at Valley View Winery, Wooldridge Creek

Vineyards, and South Stage Cellars. Another tour is the Haunted History Wine Tour, and you can also design your own tour. Bacchus's knowledgeable chauffeur will give you some wine-tasting hints to enhance your tasting experience. Prices start at \$40 per person.

Southern Oregon Town Car and Limousine (www.southernoregontowncar.com) will tour four wineries with six people at \$70 per hour plus gratuity; their Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine accommodates 10 people at \$80 per hour. They also have a 14-passenger bus for \$90 per hour. There is even a party bus that holds 25 of your closest friends for \$120 per hour plus gratuity. This would be fun for special birthdays, showers, and family reunions.

Wine Hopper Tours (www.winehoppertours.com) includes some unique wine experiences with the Twilight Wine Float on the Rogue River. For \$110 per person from May to August, the Wine Hopper bus transports guests from Merlin to the Rogue River at 5 pm. Guests enjoy a light meal and wine while floating down the Rogue, returning to Merlin at 9 pm. September and October trips start at 3 pm and end at 7 pm. Sounds like a really fun trip guaranteed to make some unforgettable family memories. Wine Hopper also has private chauffeured vans for 13 people maximum at \$600 per day plus gratuity. And they have a larger bus that accommodates from 14 to 40 people on a custom Applegate Valley Wine tour.

Other limo companies that do wine tours are **Platinum Xcursions** at www.platinumxcursions.com and **Taste of Honey Limousine** at

www.tasteofhoneylimo.com. **Express Limousine Service** at www.limowine.com has a number of offerings to almost every winery in the valley. Visit these tour company websites for more information and prices.

Troon Vineyard has added a new enhancement to their tasting-room experience with their Grape Expedition tour that runs from April through harvest on Fridays through Sundays at 12, 2 and 4 pm. Reservations are required. The tour provides special access to their wine-



Allaboard Trolleys "Molly" and "Dolly" hold 15 passengers and can be reserved for your friends and family.



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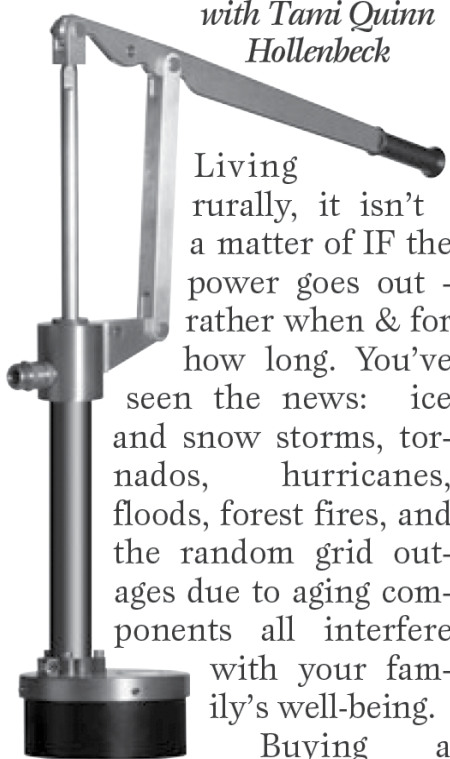
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with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck



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Restoration projects around the Applegate Watershed

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

While clean water and fish are subjects people have fought and died over, the slow process of doing work in our valley to safeguard these treasures is less dramatic. I'd like to update you on what the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has been doing over the past year. It's good and honest work, and there have been a lot of people working alongside us.

Our Thompson Creek Habitat Restoration Project has expanded into a second phase. We are currently working on nine properties, removing blackberries and other invasive vegetation from the riparian area and planting native trees and shrubs with funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Pacific Power's Blue Sky Fund, and the Middle Rogue Steelheaders. We've worked with local crews from Lomakatski Restoration Project for tree planting and C&C Constructors for blackberry removal.

On the first phase of this project, cattle trampled a section of plantings. Oregon Wildlife funded replacement plantings, and volunteers from the community, Southern Oregon Flyfishers, and the Middle Rogue Steelheaders helped put them in the ground this spring. We also worked with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau

of Land Management (BLM) to install root wads and logs into two areas that had severe erosion.

On Butcherknife Creek, a tributary of Slate Creek, we received a grant from OWEB to design a replacement crossing for a culvert that is rotting apart and blocking fish migration. In collaboration with Cascade Stream Solutions, the BLM, and local residents, we've submitted a grant application to fund the installation of a bridge. We also received funding from OWEB to work with landowners on Forest Creek and Little Applegate River to address fish barriers. We are currently developing projects for those sites.

On the Applegate River, we received funding through Title II (government funding for work on federal lands) to start riparian restoration at the BLM's Provolt Seed Orchard. We recently finished removing more than 12 acres of blackberries from that site, and have applied for grant funds to expand this riparian restoration work at Provolt, Cantrall Buckley Park, and some private property in the Upper Applegate area.

Near the mouth of Humbug Creek, we worked with the USFS and Good Earth Landscaping to remove a plug of gravel and reed canary grass that had accumulated under the Highway

238 bridge. In addition to reducing the capacity under the bridge, that accumulation caused the creek to go subsurface there, stranding and killing migrating fish. Students from Applegate Elementary School and volunteers from the Middle Rogue Steelheaders helped replant the streambanks with native trees and shrubs.

The Middle Rogue Steelheaders, a local nonprofit group that promotes sports fishing, conservation, and angler education, helped plant trees on Iron Creek, where we worked with a landowner to install large wood for off-channel fish habitat and streambank stabilization.

Finally, on upper Powell Creek, we worked collaboratively with the BLM and Blue Ridge Timber to yard in and place more than 120 logs in the creek for fish habitat. Over time, these logs will help create better fish habitat by slowing down the water and improving fine spawning gravel deposits, while also scouring pools on the downstream side for juvenile fish to spend their summer.

Throughout these projects, our goal is to help restore and enhance a healthy watershed function. We use varied tools toward this goal, including riparian restoration, fish passage projects, in-stream habitat enhancement, and natural resource education.

We are a small nonprofit organization, and all of our work is made possible through grants, private donations, and volunteers. We would especially like to thank the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, particularly Keith Miller, for their continued volunteer efforts and funding support.

If you are interested in getting involved, go to our website at www.apwc.info, Facebook page, or Instagram to get more information on events, volunteer efforts, donating, or developing projects together.

Or, if you just want to watch a movie together, join us for our annual summer film at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 10, at Red Lily Vineyards, 11777 Highway 238, Jacksonville.

Jakob Shockey
Restoration Program Manager
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
541-890-9989
riparianprogram@apwc.info

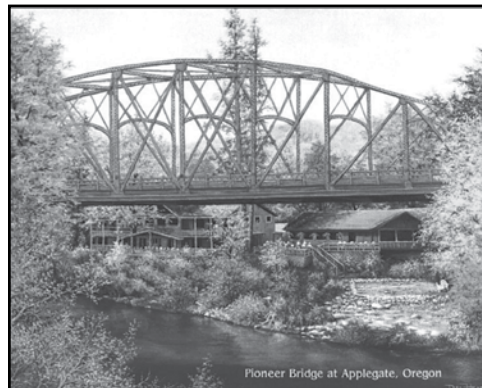
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Applegate Neighborhood Network is evolving

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) is a coalition of local residents, landowners, and conservation-, community-, and recreation-based nonprofit groups. Its members have been working on public land management issues in the Applegate Valley for over a decade, advocating for community and conservation values. Our mission is to “sustain the integrity of the environment and human communities in the Applegate Valley through collaboration, community activism, stewardship, and science. We promote wildland conservation, ecological restoration, a sustainable rural economy, and community engagement in land management planning.”

Over the years, ANN has evolved from an informal community association into a more organized, watershed-wide organization. Our goal is the promotion of conservation- and community-based values in federal land management within the Applegate Watershed. We are creating a forum for the various conservation and community-based organizations in the Applegate Valley to promote shared visions and goals. The concept is to create a network of residents and advocates for the Applegate Valley that will share resources and support grassroots community activism. We look to support a sustainable rural economy and to promote a long-term vision for land management in our watershed.

For too long, local residents have been compartmentalized and isolated in mountain canyons. The ridges have divided our communities into watersheds. The watersheds are all connected, but often the human communities have been isolated by the mountains that surround them or the distance between them. ANN works to bridge that divide by connecting and protecting watersheds and providing local residents with a network of support and solidarity within the Applegate watershed as a whole.

For some time, ANN has worked to address community concerns with the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) large Nedsbar Timber Sale in the Little and Upper Applegate Valleys. We have created the Nedsbar Community Alternative, a conservation-, restoration-, and fuel-reduction-based strategy steeped in local knowledge and perspective. The Community Alternative has been widely supported by area residents and will be analyzed alongside the BLM’s own alternatives in the upcoming Nedsbar Environmental Assessment (EA). ANN’s proactive work on the Community Alternative has empowered local residents and provided a template for community supported, environmentally responsible land management in the Applegate.

Our work has not stopped there. We have also conducted extensive monitoring of Nedsbar Timber Sale units and the BLM’s tree removal mark. And we have paid special attention to units in late seral or old-growth stands, in roadless areas, and other sensitive habitats. Our results have been publicized on the Siskiyou Crest Blog at www.thesiskiyoucrest.blogspot.com.

Using the knowledge gained through these monitoring efforts, ANN has advocated for the cancelation of inappropriate timber sale units along with more sustainable and ecologically appropriate treatments in areas that currently need restoration thinning. ANN has many concerns with the BLM’s proposed action (Alternative 4) for the Nedsbar Timber Sale, and we hope to see them addressed before release of the EA. We also hope to organize rigorous and substantive public comment when the EA is released. The EA is scheduled for release in May 2016.

On US Forest Service (USFS) land, ANN has also begun working collaboratively on the Upper Applegate Road Project, a commercial timber sale in the Upper Applegate Valley, and on projects within the Applegate Adaptive Management Area. We are also engaging in the Williams IVM Project, a timber sale and fuel-reduction project on BLM lands in the mountains above Williams.

ANN is also preparing to begin conducting off-road vehicle monitoring in the mountains surrounding Ruch and Little Applegate on BLM lands, as well as botanical areas, roadless areas, Research Natural Areas, and backcountry non-motorized areas on USFS land. Our goal is to document and address environmental impacts associated with off-road vehicle use.

ANN intends to continue monitoring, advocacy, and collaboration on future federal land management projects. We also intend to address other issues of concern to the community, including fire safety, pollinator conservation, inappropriate target shooting on public land that is threatening the safety of local communities, off-road vehicle damage, and non-motorized trail construction and maintenance.

As issues arise that create conservation and community concerns, ANN will be addressing them and offering solutions. Join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, usually at Applegate Library, 18485 N Applegate Road. Visit our website at www.applegateneighborhood.net.

Luke Ruediger

Applegate Neighborhood Network
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

Applegate community makes presentation to agencies

BY JACK DUGGAN

Opposite Day is January 24, but a reversal of sorts took place in the Applegate on March 30 of this year.

The Applegate community is familiar with meetings presented by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), or both. But on March 30 the community, in the form of the Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN), held a meeting at the Applegate Fire District’s new community building, inviting the USFS and the BLM to listen to Applegate residents present their experience and perspectives on public land management.

Community presenters included Luke Ruediger, who outlined ANN’s vision, scope and mission. He also presented on behalf of Klamath Forest Alliance, showing an incredible series of slides portraying both good and bad forestry practices. Luke has been walking the ground throughout the Applegate Valley for many years.

For the next hour, agency folks heard from David Calahan, Applegate Trails Association; Hope Robertson, Siskiyou Upland Trails Association; Chant Thomas, Threatened and Endangered Little Applegate; Cheryl Bruner, Williams Community Forest Project; Jack Duggan, Forest Creek; Lydia Doleman, Speak for the Trees; Amy Schlotterback, Klamath-Siskiyou Wild; Suzie Savoie, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds; James Kramer, Silver Springs Nursery; and Tom Powell, representing small farms and the Siskiyou Co-op. That hour covered more than 200 years of boots-on-the-ground knowledge of the Applegate Valley.

After a short break, Chris Bratt presented an extensive history of forest

management, agency agreements, and planning documents in the Applegate. Chris was followed by Hope Robertson with a well-documented presentation on the recreation economy in the Applegate. (Spoiler alert: quiet recreation wins!)

Following this wealth of information, Chant Thomas provided some perspectives on the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), Chris Bratt having provided a comprehensive background in his history presentation.

Chant then summarized the meeting. He asked the folks from BLM and USFS to look around the room at the community members who had given their day to help illustrate the history, status, and needs of public lands where they live. He pointed out that these people are well-educated, a few doctorates among them, that they have decades of on-the-ground experience, and that they want the public land managers to utilize that community knowledge in developing their plans.

Government employees were then given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. At first there was little response, then a series of brief comments along the “food-for-thought” line. Dayne Barron, BLM Medford District manager, offered an impromptu speech about how important it was to BLM to collaborate with the community and how much he appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Applegate.

Hopefully this will not be the last time the Applegate community comes together to invite our largest absentee landowner neighbors to come—not to speak to us, but to listen.

Jack Duggan • shanachie@hughes.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Applegater,

I have lived in Grants Pass/Josephine County most of my life. Last summer we attended a wedding out in the Applegate Valley. I had not been out that way for a long time. It was shocking to see so many wind machines ruining the lives of such a peaceful area. How very sad.

As you talk of “Grow with respect” in your recent issue, we are dumbfounded at what many consider normal. Wow! From wind machines rattling every acre to growing pot, the once remarkable valley is turning into a place I would be wary of.

Unfortunately, wind machines have invaded our area of Helms Road in the Jerome Prairie area. What was once a peaceful dairy, then bulb farm, has become a chemical polluter with the noise of five hovering helicopters at night ruining land values.

Reap what you sow, dear Applegate Valley. Profits are not always the bottom line. Terri Zeutzius, Grants Pass, OR

Voices of the Applegate

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir directed by Blake Weller, ended the spring session with two concerts: the first one on April 1 at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the second at the Applegate River Lodge on April 3. These concerts were well received by the audiences, and the choir was full of enthusiasm in presenting the programs. The music selections were: four madrigals from the 15th and 16th centuries; two contemporary spirituals, “Festival Sanctus” and “Oseh Shalom”; and two Beatles songs, “Blackbird” and “Here Comes the Sun.”

Voices of the Applegate will begin another session in the fall with the first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 7, at Ruch Library. We welcome new members. Sessions are 12 weeks long, including the concerts, and the cost is \$55 per session, which pays for the director, the cost of the venues, and scholarships when available.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.



Burn reminder

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OPINIONS

River Right: It's for the birds!

BY TOM CARSTENS

When I'm on the river, I love to watch the American dipper, also known as the water ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*). It's better than a video game! This little guy finds all his food beneath the surface of fast-moving water. Dippers can swim, so they produce a lot of protective oil for their feathers, have special eyelids that let them see under water, nostrils that close, and a dense bone structure—all good adaptations for a critter that can stay submerged for up to 30 seconds. Out on the rocks, he's a real clown—bobbing and weaving like a drunken sailor and flashing white when he blinks.

I've got birds on my mind. I just returned from a three-week camping trip to the Arizona desert to watch birds. Well, to be more accurate, to watch my wife watch birds. "What's wrong with the birds here?" an Applegate Valley friend asked me. I don't have the answer to that question; it's not within my purview. I just carry the bins.

Although dippers tend to stick around all year, most birds migrate. So my wife likes to watch them as they transit through Mexico to points north. Literally hundreds of species make the journey. They like to take a break in the mountain clusters that rise precipitously from the desert floor. This trip my wife added about seven new species to her life list. We've done this before.

One of her favorite places is the Ramsey Canyon Preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy high in the Huachuca Mountains near the border southeast of Tucson. Migrating birds seek respite in this cool, lush riparian zone.

I like The Nature Conservancy (TNC). We've been members for decades. When we first moved to the Applegate Valley 12 years ago, I volunteered with the local chapter and was assigned to pull thousands of non-native plants from the floor of the Agate Desert. It was pretty boring, but they bribed me with great cookies, so I kept at it.

What I like about this group is that they're environmentalists who don't scold you. As far as I can tell, they don't sue you either. They just try and work things out. What a concept. They actually sit down with landowners, government, industry, and others to figure out best outcomes. They've come up with some innovative, science-based conservation approaches that have actually kept a lot of precious land from being commercialized, industrialized, or compartmentalized. They negotiate in good faith and show stakeholders how they can profit while preserving nature's bounty. A local group, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, works deals in much the same way. Google them

American dipper feeding its youngster.
Photo: Bob Armstrong.



up—they're a nice bunch and have great programs.

We've been hearing a lot about political deals in the news lately. In my mind, a good deal is fair to all parties and moves the ball forward. It's good for us and good for wildlife, including the birds.

TNC recently featured an interesting article in their journal about new ornithological research at the University of Washington. Dr. John Marzluff and his graduate students have determined that, although wild reserves provide shelter for lots of unique birds, the suburbs are literally bustling with them. This was a surprise to me. Marzluff published a book, *Welcome to Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*. It turns out that wherever we live, we tend to create lots of different kinds of habitat. Residential zones can actually foster diversity of bird species. Think about all the different landscapes in the Applegate Valley.

Marzluff came up with something he calls "Nature's Ten Commandments." I know we technically don't live in the burbs, but I thought that his ideas might be adaptable by us here in the Applegate.

I've summarized them in the sidebar.

The presence or absence of birds tells a lot. I know that when a dipper is working at my lunch spot, it means the water is clean and the river is healthy. And what a show!

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Marzluff's Ten Commandments

Adapted slightly for Applegaters

- 1. Keep your lawn small.** Devote more of the land around your house to native species, gardens, ponds, etc. This kind of landscape is easier to care for, requires less fertilizer, and saves a lot of water. The birds will love it.
- 2. Keep your cat indoors.** Our feline pets kill wild birds by the billions.
- 3. Make your windows visible to birdies.** Go ahead and wash your windows, but try applying decals or striping. Just five percent coverage will do the job.
- 4. Don't light up the night sky.** Use outdoor lighting only when necessary and face lights downward. Think of the owls.
- 5. Provide food, water, and nest sites.** Leave some dead snags for nesting cavities and food. Hummingbirds love sage blossoms.
- 6. Don't kill the predators.** The toxins we use to control insects and rodents are deadly to hawks and eagles.
- 7. Foster a diversity of habitats.** Let the birds landscape for you. "Birdscaping" is chaotic, but beautiful and natural. And a lot less work.
- 8. Make wildlife-safe zones.** Leave corridors of natural grass and shrubs on your property. The birds will dine in style.
- 9. Work with local authorities.** Protect our parks and riparian zones. Cantrall Buckley and Fish Hatchery parks are bonanzas for ducks, herons, eagles, and other wildlife.
- 10. Cherish what we have.** Did you know that ecologists consider southern Oregon one of the most biologically diverse spots in the country? Conserve what you can and enjoy!

BLM releases proposed changes to Resource Management Plan: Applegate Valley residents weigh in

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently released its proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) for western Oregon. This huge, 2000-plus page document proposes some major changes in how the BLM manages 2.6 million acres of federal land in western Oregon, an area currently managed under the Northwest Forest Plan. The changes relate to how the BLM makes decisions on a range of issues including water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, and logging.

If implemented, the BLM's new RMP will drop both the Dakubetede and Wellington Wildlands from their currently inventoried status as "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics." Dakubetede is in the Little Applegate Valley—you hike straight through it on the Sterling Ditch Mine Trail. Wellington Wildlands is in the Middle Applegate Valley between Ruch and Applegate on the ridges above Forest Creek, Humbug Creek, and Highway 238.

By dropping the status of these areas as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, the BLM will remove important environmental protections from some of the Applegate Valley's most intact

habitats and cherished recreational areas. This will enable the BLM to log the small amounts of timber from these mostly oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland areas, degrading the wilderness character, the wildlife habitat, and the recreational experience.

The Proposed RMP will also drop the status of the Applegate watershed as an Adaptive Management Area (AMA). Designated in 1994, the Applegate AMA helped engage local residents in the BLM planning process, and it mandated that innovative and adaptive forest management techniques would be implemented in the Applegate.

Applegate Valley residents and nonprofit groups are currently reading through the hefty document to figure out how the new plans for our public BLM lands will further affect the Applegate Valley. Below are some of their initial reactions to the proposed changes:

"Recent revelations regarding widespread overcutting of spotted owl habitat in the Medford District, compounded by significant blowdown of trees in recently thinned forest stands, mean that BLM thought it had much more spotted owl habitat than actually

exists. Therefore, calculations underlying the RMP that quantify harvest levels, land allocations, and wildlife habitat are based on inaccurate information." —Chant Thomas, Threatened and Endangered Little Applegate Valley

"The BLM is mandated to protect watershed and streamflow and, with our hotter, drier summers and decreasing water flow, they are failing by cutting the riparian reserves in half. The trees they cut are essential to protect the streams for salmon habitat and water conservation." —Cheryl Bruner, Williams Community Forest Project

"BLM's Proposed RMP threatens to compound watershed issues already threatened by lax and under-enforced ODF [Oregon Department of Forestry] logging regulations on private lands. It is unwise to increase logging on public lands while rural and urban communities are already feeling the negative effects of the last 50-plus years of intense logging, which has led to water quality degradation and an increase in fuel loads and fire intensity. What we need is ecologically appropriate management based on community safety and fire resiliency, and not on the false pretext that the timber industry is going to create jobs." —Lydia Doleman, Speak for the Trees

"BLM continues to kick the OHV [Off Highway Vehicles] issue down the road. If I were grading this RMP, they'd get an 'incomplete.'" —Jack Duggan

"I will mourn the loss of the Applegate Adaptive Management Area and the Lands with Wilderness Characteristics." —Luke Ruediger, Klamath Forest Alliance

"It's unfortunate that the BLM is still operating from an outdated mindset. The new plan lacks recognition of the importance of carbon storage in our forests. It weakens stream buffers, which affect wildlife and fish. The BLM should be embracing the expanding recreation economy and emphasizing forest health rather than increasing the number of board feet produced by our forests." —Marion Hadden, Applegate Neighborhood Network

"If enacted, BLM's RMP would be devastating to businesses like ours, and to wineries, organic family farms, recreation, and other businesses that depend on the beautiful ambiance and natural services provided by these BLM lands in our neighborhoods, including the official Oregon State Scenic Trail, the 30-plus mile historic Sterling Mine Ditch Trail." —Susanna Bahaar, Director, Birch Creek Arts and Ecology Center

The 30-day protest period for the proposed changes to the RMP is now over, and the BLM will soon release their final record of decision. To read the BLM's proposed RMP, visit www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon.

Suzie Savoie

Applegate Neighborhood Network
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

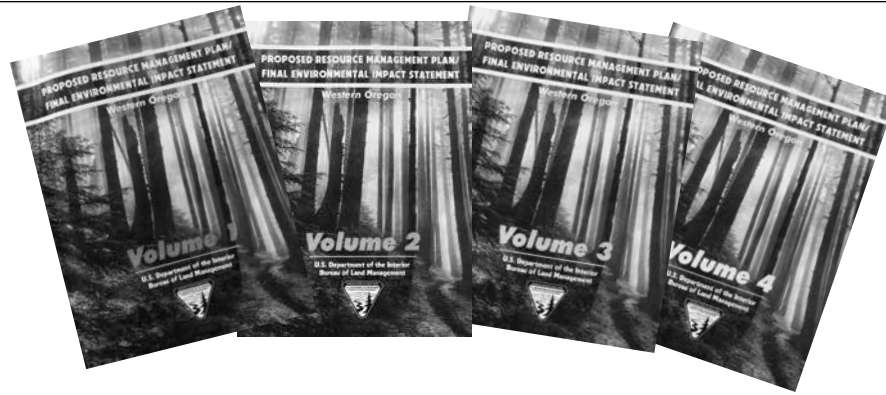
OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door: BLM flies the coop!

BY CHRIS BRATT

This past April, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cut loose its formal ties with our greater Applegate community and the US Forest Service (USFS). The actual notice of this divorce came to us in the form of BLM's newly "revised" forest Resource Management Plan (RMP). This new RMP is no simple revision of BLM's existing plan. It is a huge departure from their present RMP and the forest management protections, directions, and purposes mandated for both the USFS and the BLM in the region-wide Northwest Forest Plan. BLM's new RMP consists of four large telephone-book size volumes with a total of 2,008 pages weighing 14.6 pounds (see photo). It has generated approximately 4,500 comments from government agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public.

Despite its giant size and overwhelming, mind-boggling contents, these four volumes contain virtually nothing about BLM's rationale for going it alone in managing its public forestlands in the Applegate or northwest-wide. As partners for the past 20 years in sharing a set of specific goals developed collaboratively for managing these forests in the designated 500,000-acre Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), BLM has left us with only this curt explanation: "BLM does not believe that a separate land use allocation is needed to support such collaborative processes. Nothing in the proposed



The four volumes of BLM's newly revised forest Resource Management Plan boast 2,008 pages and weigh over 14 pounds.

RMP would preclude the continued collaborative process that has been developed associated with the Applegate Valley Adaptive Management Area."

I believe that without any specific formalized direction from the BLM in its new plan, our community will end up with no long-term AMA plan for the Applegate. Nor will there be a real public/interagency/collaborative process if BLM's participation in community planning is left solely to the discretion of BLM field area managers. In that case, the Applegate will no longer be the "intended prototype of how forest communities might be sustained" per the Northwest Forest Plan. Is this the end of working together to develop and test innovative forest management "approaches to integrate and achieve ecological and economic health and other social objectives"? I hope not.

Many residents considered that our active Applegate community and both federal agencies (BLM and USFS),

by working together, were capable of restoring forest health and protecting species while cutting a fair amount of timber. Good work was being accomplished through collaboration rather than the need for extensive revisions or litigation. In fact, many of our joint accomplishments were recognized nationally as the way to maintain and improve forest health and rural communities. The idea was to adapt and revise our forest management plans jointly as we gathered information about which actions worked for achieving a "desired future condition" for the land and community in the Applegate.

Even more disturbing in these new plans is the major shift back to cutting and selling a higher volume of timber (75 million board feet more). Virtual clear-cutting on thousands of acres is being proposed. The BLM is returning to its earlier interpretation of the Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), the main law that

governs the BLM's management actions.

Throughout the RMP, the BLM claims that it "must provide a sustained yield of timber annually." The agency further asserts that "timber production is the primary or dominant use of O&C lands in western Oregon." This means that all other forest resources—unless protected by another law like the Endangered Species Act—could be harmed during logging operations. It appears that real multiple use and prudent forest management are fine with the agency, unless they interfere with cutting timber. These are unwarranted and specious mandates being proposed once again.

I believe the demands of the timber industry, Oregon's rural forested counties, and many conservative politicians have influenced and intimidated the BLM for too long. Even BLM's boss, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, calls for a "major course correction...because healthy intact ecosystems are fundamental to the health of our nation." It's the O&C Act that falls short and needs revision. And the BLM should stick to its self-proclaimed ongoing mission "to sustain the health and productivity of these public lands for everyone's use and enjoyment now and into the future."

How can you not agree? Please let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Science and truth—Part One

BY TOM ATZET, PHD

The opinion section of the *Applegater* has sometimes included several conflicting pieces relative to scientific research. In this two-part article, I would like to offer some ways for readers to sort out science and truth.

For about 30 years I provided federal agency managers in southern Oregon and the Applegate Watershed information for operational application and decision-making. This required digestion and critical reviews of numerous scientific publications to corroborate and validate various claims and conclusions. Information related to habitat, connectivity, macro and micro climate, timber productivity, growth and yield, fire frequency and effects, and successional processes was frequently requested. Conflicting and contradictory data and results were common.

Honesty in scientific publications is deteriorating (note the J.R. Duren article mentioned later in this article). Yet, we too often believe the written word, particularly in scientific publications, without applying vigorous critical thinking. It takes less effort to mindlessly accept and absorb what is presented. After all, the requisite formal reviews should have eliminated any bias or agenda. But that is not the case.

It is increasingly imperative that each of us be able to recognize when we are being presented with garbage.

The scientific method is an intellectual and systematic approach for testing what we think we know. It was designed and refined over the years as a process to uncover the truth and avoid unfounded reasoning. The scientific method can be generalized using five universal steps: (1) doing background research, (2) developing a hypothesis, (3) gathering data, (4) analyzing, and (5) presenting conclusions.

Published science is often touted as providing validity and truth, but does it really? Depending on the discipline, recent studies estimate that from 40 to 60 percent of published, peer-reviewed research is flawed; often reported conclusions are neither valid nor useful. The likelihood that every research publication provides truth and validity is not high.

In *Science News* in August 2015, award-winning journalist J.R. Duren reported on the "Reproducibility Project" that found "most published psychology research to be unreliable." Social and biological research, compared to physical and chemical research, i.e., "hard science," can be difficult to nail down. Definitions, behavior, and temporal and spatial variability are difficult to measure, define, and control. For example, how do you measure happiness? There is no consistent or commonly accepted protocol. Measuring

acidity or hardness, on the other hand, uses standard methodology. Repeated results are commonly expected. But keep in mind that significant co-occurrence or correlation does not necessarily imply causation. The number of storks nesting in Europe, for example, was often significantly correlated with the human birth rate. Although much has been written about the role of storks in delivering babies, even storks do not support such unreliable conclusions.

Regardless of the discipline, the best way to evaluate what you read, hear, or see is with a high degree of skepticism. Mark Twain often said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics." Yet statistics in science are expected to provide the basis for understanding our world.

Although experimental design, reporting results, analysis, and science are more complex, there are a few basic tools that can provide a strategy for skeptical evaluation. Five basic tools or concepts—(1) definition, (2) measurability, (3) population stratification, (4) dispersion, and (5) disclosure—can be used to sort out spurious conclusions. These tools will be discussed in the Fall 2016 issue of the *Applegater*.

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Dr. Atzet spent 30 years with the US Forest Service as an area ecologist in southern Oregon. He has authored and reviewed numerous peer-reviewed publications and currently serves on the board of the Siskiyou Field Institute.

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. Letters are limited 450 words. Opinion pieces **must be relevant to the Applegate Valley** and are limited to 700 words. Both may be edited for grammar and length. All letters **must** be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Opinion pieces **must** include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address). **Anonymous letters and opinion pieces will not be published.** Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Email opinion pieces and letters to the editor to gater@applegater.org, or mail to *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features the talents of our local students and school news and updates. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit news, art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

RUCH SCHOOL**'Applegate to Africa: Communities connect' project**

Twenty-some years ago, Ruch School partnered with the Jacksonville Rotary Club to plan and execute a service-learning project in Tanzania. "When the picture that portrayed a child taking care of a small lamb was offered to the children of the tribe, the bridge was built and the connections began," recalls Rotary member Platon Mantheakis. Now, Ruch School and the Rotary Club are planning another community-connecting project for 2016-17.

Named "Applegate to Africa: Communities Connect," this project will connect students at Ruch School with a village in Tanzania. Ruch students have begun raising the funds to drill a well to bring residents of the village clean water close to home.

Beginning with the annual Jog-A-Thon held on May 20, 2016,

Ruch students collected donations for laps walked or run. Plans are in the works for geographical research, African art and music appreciation, culinary experiences, and learning about similarities and differences between our two communities.

A year from now we hope to send students to Africa as ambassadors to see the project to completion! This is what a community school does.

If you would like to know more about this service-learning project and/or would like to donate to Ruch School Jog-A-Thon (the deadline is the last day of school in June), please contact the school at 541-842-3850 or email Julie Barry at julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us.

Julie Hill Barry

Principal, Ruch Community School
julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us

Ruch School: A global community

"Why am I here?" I thought as we ran and ran and ran.

"Self-defense number six!" Mr. James yelled. We immediately stopped running and started the form. Our legs still burning from the miles already run, we set off again. Why was I here? Because I had wanted to try something new. Something fun. Something that could teach me how to respect others. I was in the last stages of my black-belt testing in karate, at the upper end of Emigrant Lake. After the last mile was run, the last punch thrown, the last form shown, we got back into the van that took us back to the karate center where our parents were anxiously waiting. Earning my black belt in karate taught me that things that seem impossible at first can be achieved through persistence and hard work.

That's a lesson I bring to my work at the school I attend, Ruch Community K-8 School, a community-based school with opportunities for students to help the community grow. One project that I'm involved in is "Community 101." This year we had \$5,000 to donate to nonprofit organizations in our community. We reached out to them and asked if they would like to submit a grant application. Once we have received all the grant applications, we will divide the money up to a few organizations that we think will benefit the community the

most. At the end of the school year, we will publicly announce the recipients and officially give away the money to the selected organizations.

I'm also involved in an exciting project to help a community in Africa. Our principal, Mrs. Barry, has proposed an idea: 25 years ago our school was contacted by the Jacksonville Rotary Club and raised \$5,000 for a village in Tanzania. Now the Rotary Club wants us to help them raise money to dig a well in the village. We took on the project because this is a kind of global community.

Community 101 and the project in Africa have helped me in more than one way. Community 101 has taught me to take time and be patient about listening to others. It has also helped me think about my community in the Rogue Valley and ways to help it grow and thrive. The idea of helping an entire village in Africa be able to get water without walking miles is exciting. It supports the idea of a *global community*, one community helping another. I like the idea that a small school in Oregon, through persistence and hard work, can dig an entire village a well.

William della Santina

Sixth-grade student

Ruch Community School

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**Ruch School Annual
'Night in the Valley' Auction**

On Friday, June 24, residents of our beautiful Applegate Valley will come together at Red Lily Vineyards to celebrate—and fundraise for—Ruch Community School! Donations to the "Night in the Valley" auction are being accepted now to help support enrichment programs, technology upgrades, sports opportunities, sustainability practices, and academic resources for students throughout the year.

If you would like to attend the auction or support the school with a donation, contact Ruch School at 541-842-3850. Thank you for your support!

APPLEGATE SCHOOL**Applegate students share science with younger peers**

Substitute teachers are hard to come by, so perhaps the second-grade and third-grade students from Applegate and Williams schools took no notice that their new science teacher on May 11 was a middle schooler!

Applegate middle-school students wrapped up their year-long Applegate Field Study by sharing what they learned this year with their elementary school counterparts.

The focus was on river life, and the elder students spent two weeks preparing themselves to teach six different stations during the event: Mammals 1 and 2, Salmon Life Cycle, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians, and Macroinvertebrates. The teaching kits for each of the six

stations were obtained from Southern Oregon University.

The event was a culmination of visits to Cantrall Buckley Park to collect water samples, plant indigenous plants, learn about river history and its effect on human life, and study the life in the river.

The study was initially designed by Applegate teacher Jill Howdysshell. When Jill left for an extended absence, her middle-school partner Michelle Stone took over.

The animal study is a great way to spark interest in science among younger students. The older students worked hard to prepare their lessons, and Michelle Stone did a fantastic job of organizing and implementing this valuable project.

Applegate School students claim science prizes

Five Applegate School students were recognized with ribbons for their science projects at the Three Rivers Science Fair and Competition held on Wednesday, March 9.

Top ribbon winner was Masey Embury, a fifth-grade student who received a Gold ranking, followed by Silver ribbon winners Zeyna DiBiasi, grade four, and Sydney Lock, grade five.

Laura Kliewer, grade four, won a Bronze, and Azalea Stinson, grade five, was awarded a Participant's ribbon.

Gifts from Parent-Teacher-Student Group

Applegate School's Parent-Teacher-Student Group (PTSG) has given to its school in some big ways recently.

The group offered students \$500 to support the all-school field trip to Emigrant Lake on Wednesday, June 15, and they also purchased a new swing set for the school. The cost of the four-swing structure, along with a purchase of new tetherballs, totaled \$2,000.

Seana Hodge, the current head of PTSG, is in the process of handing the reins over to Casey Embury. The PTSG is in continual search of additional volunteers so they will be able to even better enrich students' education at Applegate School.

For more information about the PTSG, call the school office at 541-846-6280.

'Moving On' ceremony is June 14; eighth-grade trip follows

Applegate School staff members, parents, and community members will honor the nine years of effort that their eighth-grade students have made to get to high school.

The Moving On ceremony, which will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at 6 pm in Applegate School's gymnasium, will include speeches by each of the members of the class moving on to high school. Community members are invited to attend.

The ceremony is part of a big week for the eighth grade. The students are currently raising money to go to Raging Waters at the California Pavilion in Sacramento, then proceed to Vallejo where Six Flags awaits. Students sold pancake feed tickets for the May 28 Applebee's Grants Pass event, as well as discount cards for pizza.

Johnathan DiBiasi donates new greenhouse

The Applegate community has been highly supportive of their school, but Johnathan DiBiasi's offer to supply and build a new greenhouse was a bit of a shocker!

"This is no small project," said Principal Darrell Erb. "That Mr. DiBiasi is willing to donate so much of the needed supplies and complete the labor on a greenhouse of this size is just incredible!"

Mr. DiBiasi heads Evolve Greenhouse Systems, so he's no stranger to putting up quality greenhouses. Why is he willing? For the same, simple reason that many parents step up in such a large way: "My children love Applegate School, and we saw the need for a new greenhouse," he said.

The greenhouse, made of structural steel, will be 24 feet by 32 feet when completed. At this point, the gravel that provides the base has been placed, and construction will begin soon.

Mr. DiBiasi wants to thank Robin Pfeifer for pitching in on this project. Copeland Paving Sand and Gravel also deserves to be recognized for donating the gravel and hauling it to the site.

School Volunteer Tea slated for June 3

School staff members will host a Volunteer Tea on Tuesday, June 3, at 1:45 pm. This event is held each year to allow the school's staff to formally thank the many amazing volunteers. Applegate School teacher Debbie Yerby is organizing the tea. For more information, call the school office at 541-846-6280.

School information provided by Darrell Erb Jr., Principal
Applegate and Williams Schools
darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us

Big news from Applegate Trails Association

BY DIANA COOGLE

Even before the trails are in place, Luke Ruediger and Josh Weber, board members of the Applegate Trails Association, have completed a thru-hike on the ridge from Ashland to Grants Pass. They are the first two people (at least in common memory) to walk this route with its rugged terrain, cross-country challenges, and endless expanse of folds and ravines, hillocks, and outcrops.

In mid-May the two intrepid hikers started in downtown Ashland, hiking on the route that will be the Jack-Ash Trail (envisioned and proposed by the Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association), then onto the East ART (the eastern end of the Applegate Ridge Trail, envisioned and proposed by the Applegate Trails Association), ending 80 miles from the starting point at the Cathedral Hills trail system at the south end of Grants Pass.

The hike itself was reason enough to undertake this journey—the views, the wildness, the excitement of finding a trail—but the trip especially appealed to Josh because, he says, he wanted “to imagine the hypothetical: what it is like to have to walk from one town to the next, as though a first explorer, traversing the remote ridgelines to see how the various towns and side valleys connect.”

There were also two less hypothetical purposes. One was to scout the route in preparation for the eventual trail-building. The other was to create a promotional video to help bring awareness to ATA’s trail-building project. “We believed that seeing the beauty and diversity of the trail would help the surrounding communities



Lunch at ATA’s 2015 Call of the Wild. Clockwise from bottom left: David McClarnon, Alex Weinbrecht, unknown, Barbara Kostal, Josh Weber, Mike Kohn.

understand the tangible benefits these trails represent,” Luke explained. “The film will bring people to the trail and encourage folks to get involved.”

Videographer Tim Lewis met Josh and Luke at several intervals on their journey to get footage of their experience and shots of the amazing scenery this long trail provides: beautiful forests, woodlands, and chaparral; long, spectacular views across the mountains, and diverse floral displays.

ATA extends many thanks to all the people who donated to the Kickstarter campaign to raise money for the video. We’re excited about Tim’s work and how well it documents what we’re intending to do.

With the excitement of the hike now behind us, ATA is turning its attention to the next two big events: our second Call of the Wild outdoor seminar at Cantrall Buckley Park on Saturday, October 1. Keep your eyes open for posters and flyers announcing who will be leading workshops, and keep your calendars marked for the date. All attendees last year loved the event, so we’re hoping to make it even bigger this year.

The other big event, scheduled for early fall, is the breaking of ground for the East ART, the first section of the Applegate Ridge Trail to be built. Enormous excitement at ATA!

See our hike schedule at www.applegatetrails.org. Join us on the trail!

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

The Jack-Ash heads for the hills

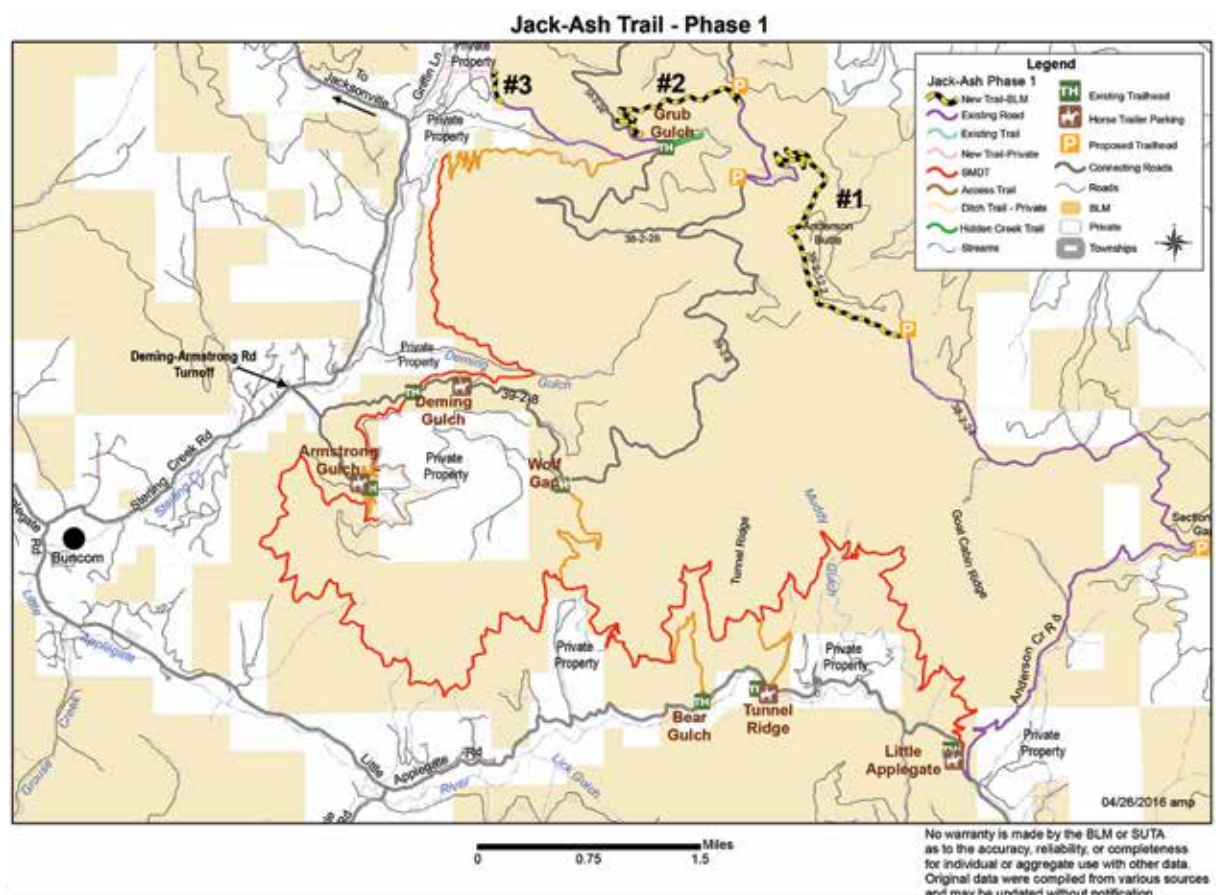
BY JEFFREY JUDKINS

After several years of planning, marking the proposed route, obtaining easements for private land access, and working through the detailed environmental reviews required for a new trail, the first phase of the Jack-Ash Trail is finally becoming a reality.

Volunteers from the Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association (SUTA) have worked closely with the Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office to fulfill the vision of a nonmotorized path linking the trail systems of Jacksonville and Ashland (hence the name “Jack-Ash”). When completed, hikers, equestrians, runners, and mountain bikers will be able to travel more than 60 miles of trails. The Jack-Ash crosses the ridges and slopes of the mountains lined up on the west side of the Rogue Valley between Wagner Butte and Jacksonville, including Bald Mountain, Point Mountain, and Anderson Butte. Much of the route will track the historic trail between the fire lookouts on Anderson and Wagner Buttes. The Jack-Ash will also connect to both ends of the historic Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, creating a giant loop in the middle. Eventually it will also connect to the future Applegate Ridge Trail, which will continue the ridgetop journey toward Grants Pass.

The first phase of the Jack-Ash project (see map) involves the

construction of 4.7 miles of new trails, linking existing BLM roads and historic trails to create a 36-mile loop with the very popular Sterling Mine Ditch Trail (another SUTA project). The proposed new trail segments are located on the upper slopes of Anderson Butte, running down the slopes toward the existing Sterling Mine Ditch trailhead at Grub Gulch. It splits off from the Grub Gulch access trail and starts the trip toward Jacksonville by connecting out to Griffin Lane. At the other end, the trail will leave the ridgeline and follow scenic Rush Creek Road to connect to the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail at the Little Applegate Trailhead. Access to the Jack-Ash Trail will be possible where the trail connects to existing gravel roads, with future improvements to several new parking areas, including Section-line Gap. Trail work for the first phase is planned to begin this fall.



The second phase of the project will extend the trail on the northern and southern ends to eventually connect with the Ashland Watershed trail system and enable connection to the Pacific

Crest Trail via Forest Road 22 to the Jacksonville Woodlands trail system and the Applegate Ridge Trail.

Jeffrey Judkins
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ATA’s first-ever equestrian event

Saturday, June 4, is National Trails Day, and what better way to spend it than on the back of a horse! The Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is hosting its first-ever trail ride on the beautiful East Fork-Four Creeks trails in Williams, Oregon.

Four Creeks Trail weaves through forested Bureau of Land Management land with mild to moderate inclines, some rocky places (shoes or hoof boots suggested), and four creek crossings. The trail often parallels Powell Creek, and there is a lovely section lined with beautiful green ferns, giving the ride an almost ethereal feeling. This is a ride of moderate difficulty.

Gather at the trailhead by 9 am for departure at 9:30 am sharp. Remember to bring water and a snack. The ride should be finished between noon and 1 pm.

Applegate resident Alex Weinbrecht, leader of this ride, is an experienced trail guide. Her trail horse Dakota is solid and knows her job! Alex joined ATA to help ensure that all trails being developed are suitable for equestrian use. To RSVP and get directions to the Four Creeks trailhead, please contact Alex at alex@applegatetrails.org.



ATA trail-ride leader Alex Weinbrecht

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Photos, from left to right:

—After reading in the *Applegater* that the Queen was home, **Mikell Nielsen** visited Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. (Mikell claims that she saw Queen Elizabeth peeking out a castle window.)

—**John Taylor** searches the *Gater* for an escape tunnel after finding himself on Norfolk Island, one of Australia's external territories used as a convict penal settlement.

—**Sharon Sarrouh** wonders why her daughter **Gabriella** is having trouble reading the menu while out to dinner in San Francisco.

—By the light of Big Ben in London, **Kathy Kliewer** chuckles at the dry British humour in the *Applegater*.



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