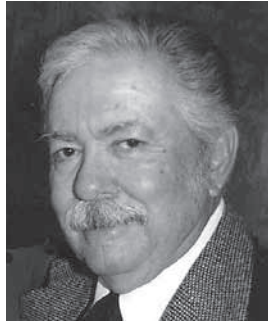


APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

Six basic rules for rearing children



Bob Fischer

BY BOB FISCHER



Once upon a time people got married, had children and reared them. It wasn't something our forebearers spent a lot of time fussing and fretting over, it was just something they did, along with most everyone else. When a young couple had children, grandparents and other extended family provided whatever support they needed to get their feet on the ground. "Parenting" hadn't been invented yet.

Along came a war and then a baby boom. Young parents took their children and went looking for the promised land. From the ashes of the extended family rose a host of child-rearing experts. It wasn't long before rhetoric replaced reality as the primary shaper of our child-rearing practices. Nonsense replaced common sense. American families became child-centered, American parents became permissive and democratic, therefore, American children became spoiled and sassy and out of control.

It is high time we returned to a more traditional and common-sense vision of child-rearing. Specifically, we need to start rearing children consistent with what I call, "the rules of the game." These are the realities by which they are going to have to live their adult lives, and the sooner they get used to them, the better.

RULE 1. You are never going to be the center of everyone's attention. Not for long, at least. This simply means that children should not be the center of attention in their families. Parents should be the center of attention. If they are not, children won't pay attention to them.

RULE 2. Everyone must obey a higher authority. Therefore, parents should expect children to obey. They should not wish that

children would obey, they should not plead with children to obey, they should not rant and rave at children to obey. They simply should, without apology, expect them to toe the mark.

RULE 3. Everyone is expected to be a contributing member of society. Too many children are on the dole. They take from their families, but are rarely, if ever, expected to put anything of consequence back into them. Ask yourself this question: "Do I expect my children to perform a regular routine of chores in and around the home, for which they are not paid?" The only acceptable answer is "Yes."

RULE 4. Everyone is responsible for his or her own behavior. Quite simply, a child who does something bad ought to feel bad about it. All too often, however, the child does something wrong and the parents feel bad. Why should a child accept responsibility for his own behavior if someone else is doing a fine job of accepting it for him.

RULE 5. You can't always get what you want, and what you do get you get by working and waiting. Therefore, children should receive all of these things they need, and a conservative amount of these things they want. Today's child desperately needs more "Vitamin N," the most character-building two-letter word in the English language.

RULE 6. You experience happiness, which is the elixir of success, in direct proportion to how sensitive and considerate you are of others. So, self-centeredness and happiness do not go hand in hand. Parents who raise their children according to rules one through five do not have to worry about rule six.

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Author's Note: I wrote this story back in the 1970s when a lot of children were spinning out of control. Of course, today you still see this happening. I am not talking about everyone's child, only the ones who need help. Most of the children I come in contact with are really great kids.

Technical and Financial Assistance Available for Landowners

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Jackson County has technical and financial assistance available for landowners on private non-industrial forestlands. They are now accepting applications for the 2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for forest health and fuels reduction projects in the Applegate and Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) areas. Cost-share is available for 50% to 90% of eligible practices including thinning, pruning, and slash treatments. Program incentives are also available for development of a Forest Management Plan.



Priority will be given to applications within the Humbug Creek and Thompson Creek drainages in the Applegate Watershed, although landowners from other parts of the Applegate are encouraged to apply. If you have questions regarding the program or the location of your property, or would like to apply, please contact:

Erin Kurtz • 541-776-4276 ext. 108
District Conservationist, Medford
erin.kurtz@or.usda.gov

Peter Winnick • 541-776-4276 ext. 109
Soil Conservationist, Medford
peter.winnick@ca.usda.gov

VOICES of the



APPLEGATE

Applegate rehearsals begin September 7

After finishing up two very exciting sessions with our Director, Blake Weller, this past winter and spring, Voices of the Applegate will begin rehearsing again on Wednesday evening, September 7, at the Applegate Library at 7:00 pm. Rehearsals will continue every Wednesday evening until November 16, and our concert will be held on November 20 at 3 pm at the Applegate River Ranch House.

Our past session was made up of "American Music" such as: music from the musical, "Rent," songs by Aaron Copland, Stephen Foster, Dave Brubeck and even some traditional spirituals.

Our choir consists of about 20 community members with little musical training, but with a lot of musical enthusiasm, enough to be able to pull off various musical arrangements in four-part harmony. No audition is required.

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

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