

~ FINE PRINT ~

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

Our Mission

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

Acknowledgements

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Protection of Copyrighted Material

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

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

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

Photo Requirements

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

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

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

Applegater Newsmagazine
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FIRE RELATIONSHIP

Continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

Aaron Krikava
roguevalleypba@gmail.com
RVPBA has gathered funding support, now for a second year—from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the Nature Conservancy through the Fire Learning Network—for the networking needed to bring people together in support of good fire and for outreach, such as writing this article.

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

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

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

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

Editorial Calendar

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

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The *Applegater* is the only newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass. For more information, contact:
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Next deadline: August 1

Cover Photo Credit

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

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

Correction

A donor acknowledgement on page 5 of the spring edition gave an incorrect city and state. The Three Bears Charitable Trust is based in Jacksonville, Oregon.
The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Barbara Holiday at barbara@applegater.org.

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