

Single in the Applegate?

BY SANDY BROOKE

The Applegate Valley is a fabulous place to live for nature lovers. We are surrounded by extremely beautiful terrain—mountains, rivers, creeks, meadows, and farmlands. The roads are still relatively small and “friendly.” Population is relatively low. No doubt it is busier than it used to be, but we can mostly still avoid crowds and traffic. When the time rolls around for an excursion into nature (as frequently as possible), we’re already there—or the short drive is as beautiful as the destination.

However, since nothing on this material plane is perfect, living the country lifestyle does have a few downsides. Managing a rural property is time-consuming and often a rather private endeavor. A lot of time and energy is needed to maintain this lifestyle we love, and that’s the rub, especially for some of us single country folk. By the time evening or a weekend comes, we’re tired from handling so much on our own. Yet if we want a bit of day’s end conversation (or cuddle), a weekend hiking partner, a dinner companion, or to potentially change our solo status, livin’ alone in the country ain’t the best! There’s another side to that wonderful independence and privacy.

So suddenly the Applegate Valley Connect website has come onto the scene, a communications and networking tool for those of us who have in common choosing to live a bit hidden away in this gorgeous valley. That’s a lot in common, right there. I’m still not 100 percent clear how to use this new system, but it inspired me to think

about an Applegate Valley Singles network. What if we created an email network of interested singles in the valley and had occasional events like a hike or a lunch or dinner, somewhere where the setup was such that mingling and meeting was made easy? I figure since I have room in my life for a few new local friends, perhaps other single folks might also. Within a quorum of interested folks, it might be possible to find others with some compatibilities, eh?

Nothing ventured, nothing lost. I proposed the idea both to Applegate Valley Connect and to the *Applegater* folks, and both were supportive. So this is a feeler. I will simply collect the addresses of those who respond by email with “Applegate Singles” in the subject line. Then, in a bit of time, I will send out an announcement of an event, probably a hike or a meal in some place where it is easy and acceptable to mingle and say hello to new folks. (Be assured that email addresses will not be used for any other purpose!) You are invited to respond if you are interested in this idea and are single and live in the Applegate Valley—perhaps from Murphy to Jacksonville off Route 238?

This seems like a good enough way to launch this experimental “Applegate Singles Network” and see if it wants to claim a life of its own. (I would not be surprised if this has even been tried before!)

Meanwhile I’d rather be single in the Applegate Valley than anywhere else!

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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

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everyone has some special needs! Example: do you need a larger travel kennel this year for your dog who’s not a puppy anymore? (Yes, I was thinking about Maggie just a few years ago. Nowadays she kennels on command and sleeps in an enclosed soft-sided kennel. Is it huge? Yes. Foldable? Yes. Expensive? Yes. But, also *priceless* knowing that if something happens, she obeys commands and is comfortable in kennels away from home!)

So make sure pets, livestock, and, of course, children are a part of your family’s emergency planning. Keep a list of “must takes” for everyone in the family. Get buy-in from the kids by letting them help define their lists!

And, what about keeping a family emergency pack that can provide necessities for a week or two, including for pets? If you have an emergency pack already put together, keep track of the age of items, replacing older components as

necessary. Finally, practice quick loading for emergency situations.

So, back to this summer. Do you need to update your contact information with out-of-the-area family members? Don’t forget to update your family members’ medical needs and your evacuation plans, such as where to meet, who calls who, etc.

How about having the chimney cleaned annually? Or filling up a storage tank or swimming pool as a water supply? We’ve gone so far as to have fire hose, helmets, and protective clothing in the garage, ready to use!

And finally, a vital tool for *every* season of the year here in the Applegate: if you have *not* been contacted by a neighborhood *telephone-tree* representative, call around to friends or to our fire district’s office (541-899-1050) to learn about, get connected into, and practice this invaluable local process! Being prepared and working with neighbors is part of living in a rural setting. It’s also rewarding and fulfilling.

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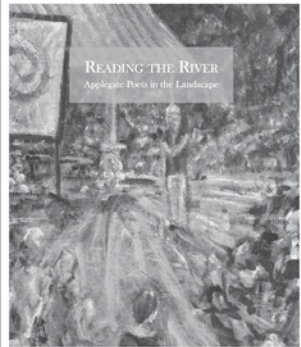
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Reading the River

The APWC, Red Lily and local Applegate Poets have collaborated in August of each year to bring the Applegate Community an evening of enrichment and entertainment through poetry and film.
Our 5th Annual Poetry Reading & Film Festival will be Weds., August 8 (~6:30pm) at Red Lily.
Featuring *Before the Flood*
a Martin Scorsese & Leonardo DiCaprio Documentary on Climate Change


The poetry book *Reading the River: Applegate Poets in the Landscape* features poetry read at our past Festivals. It is available through Amazon, or at our Office 60 Upper Applegate Road.

Jakob Shockey, Restoration Prog. Mng'r jakob@apwc.info 541-890-9989	Janelle Dunlevy, Exec. Director janelle@apwc.info 541-899-9982	Julie Cymore, Fish Passage Prog. Mng'r julie@apwc.info 541-890-9989
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