

COVID Chronicles

Coping with the fact we're all part of a world-wide web

BY SCOTT WILSON



Scott Wilson,
aka Scotty Bones

If you could rewind the clock to February and imagine yourself making a shopping list for a disaster kit, what would have been at the top of the list? I bet toilet paper and hand sanitizer wouldn't have been #1 and #2! If you had done some contingency planning for different crisis scenarios, from local to regional to national, with different lengths of crisis considered, you may have included in your plan bartering in the absence of currency, communications without electronics, and boning up on backwoods skills.

Here in the greater Applegate watershed, we enjoy an abundance of open space, fresh water, and resources that those who live in towns and cities don't have ready access to. But the majority of us, even the modern backwoods hipster, are a far cry from being even remotely self-sufficient. The rural-urban interface is not only the subdivisions and malls

butting up against farms and orchards; it's also the supply chains that begin in towns and cities around the globe and snake their way through the valleys and up and down the roads and driveways of our rural landscape. An LCD flat screen made in South Korea, filled with liquid crystals grown in a lab in Germany, sits in a pole-framed home on a mountain top in Williams, while the TV's owner watches food preservation videos on YouTube, made and uploaded on a farm in Moldova, while video chatting with someone in Montevideo, Uruguay, with only one second of latency.

My name is Scott Wilson, known to some as Scotty Bones, and I've lived in Williams since 1997. I moved to southern Oregon with my wife and two tiny children to live a homestead life, with stability and health as two primary goals. Coming from the big city and watching tech, agribusiness, and so many other

booms and busts that I lost count, I was willing to sacrifice the 401(K) and mutual funds, career advancements, and bank accounts (for awhile!). I said goodbye to my potential meteoric rise and quietly shut the door behind me.

Williams, pre-Big Cannabiz, was an ideal place to not only build the homestead life, but equally important, realize the value of reducing the need to earn, while understanding my real connections to the greater world (phones, TVs, cars) and being ready to continue if they all went away. It wouldn't be easy, but it could be done. The only non-negotiable thing I figured I truly needed was money for property taxes!

In 2006 I wrote a book, tentatively titled *What To Do When The Shiz Goes Down: A Preparedness Philosophy*, as a personal manual and an homage to freedom from collapse. Then I shelved it. But recently I have been working with

Barbara Holiday, former editor of the *Applegater*, to edit and publish it electronically in June.

Toward the end of my book, I contemplated what type of scenario could cause a total shutdown of all travel globally and paralyze the economy. The only thing I could think of was what I called "a global epidemic of disease." When I read that, I realized that I needed to update and publish my book because what we are experiencing now is only a fraction of the breakdown our civilization could ultimately face. I can't sit by and let that happen.

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Have a story about living in a time of coronavirus pandemic you'd like to share with Applegater readers? Email no more than 700 words to bert@applegater.org.

Applegate and Ruch libraries continue to offer services

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We have missed you! As your community centers for your intellectual and social needs, the Ruch and Applegate libraries are still here and gradually phasing in reopening. We do not know when, but we will come back together to learn, explore, and share stories again! Though our buildings are closed to the public at this writing in early May, we are offering Front Door Service, where patrons can pick up their holds.

Our hours remain the same, except Ruch Library now closes at 6 pm on Thursday, one hour early.

Rust never sleeps. While our doors are closed, know that staff members are working diligently behind the scenes creating virtual programming and planning for the summer and beyond.

Check out the Jackson County Library website, JCLS.org, to see all the digital resources available and our virtual programs. You can download movies, books and magazines and even learn a language. JCLS has a fantastic array of databases and online resources available to you.



No library card? Go online and sign up for an ecard, which allows you to access our digital collection.

We have been busy reconfiguring our usual Summer Reading Program for 2020. There will be Summer Reading for all ages this summer! Hooray!

There will be activities, incentives, and prizes. We are ordering new prize books, scheduling virtual programming, creating "Take and Make" kits for special activities at home, and researching other ways to keep the communities

and libraries connected during this difficult time.

We will reopen. We will have story times and programs and our very popular meeting rooms will no longer be empty. You will be able to read the newspaper, work on a puzzle, play with the train, or access the internet.

In the meantime, through our website, you can reserve books, movies, and magazines. You can download some of our digital offerings. Keep your imagination alive, because we will be back soon, and we can hardly wait!

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Trails association launches a free online document library

BY STUART HEASLET

To help citizens and organizations address issues about the preservation and management of public lands and wilderness areas in the region, the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) launched an online reference library containing reports, studies, government documents and other materials.

Available free of charge, ATA's reference library is online at applegatetrails.org/library. This library is the brainchild of David Calahan, ATA's founder and chairman.

NGO's (non-governmental organizations), local residents, and others are combining efforts to preserve the natural beauty and wilderness above our homes and valleys. These coalitions know that good environmental policy and management to preserve biodiversity and properly manage wildlands, recreation, and scenic views year after year is, simply, good business over the long run.

The library contains reference documents affecting the Klamath Siskiyou bioregion, straddling the Oregon-California border and stretching into the Applegate, Rogue, and Illinois valleys. Subjects include forest and ecosystem management, outdoor recreation, economic studies, business and property values, global climate change, pollution, and more.

AGA wants to support the efforts of the environmental, recreational, and business coalitions who understand that government must consider the full spectrum of wilderness, habitats, and human quality of life when managing public lands and that decisions need to be rooted in sound science and corresponding policy.

The reference library can assist with solid information and evidence to make the case.

Stuart Heaslet, Member
Save Wildlands Council
savewildlands.org

Sign up for free for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Since we launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library last year, almost 2,000 Josephine County children up to five years old have begun receiving books in the mail each month at no cost to their families thanks to our sponsors.

Here's how to register your child at no cost:

1. Stop by your nearest library branch in Williams, Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, or Wolf Creek and fill out a paper registration form.
2. Visit josephinelibrary.org/get-involved/imagination-library/ and fill out the online registration form.

The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, which is Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what.

Sponsors for this program include AllCare Health, the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, Welch Investment

Group, Josephine County Library Foundation, and Oregon Community.

For more information, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at 541-476-057 ext. 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

Imagine your Story: 2020 Summer Reading Program

Visit josephinelibrary.org for information about the virtual Summer Reading Program and stay tuned for weekly raffles for all ages on the library's Facebook page: [facebook.com/JosephineCommunityLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/JosephineCommunityLibrary).

Need tech help?

The library is ready to answer technology questions over the phone from 1 - 6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and from 11 am - 4 pm Fridays. The library phone number is 541-846-7020.

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District is at 20695 Williams Highway, Williams.

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