

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON
 Special to the Siuslaw News

Mega-Quake

The Internet has been all abuzz this week about an article that appeared in the July 20 issue of New Yorker magazine. Written by Kathryn Schulz, the article titled “The Really Big One” details the geographical makeup of the Cascadia Subduction Zone, located 60 miles off the Oregon coast and dangers posed by this seismic time-bomb. Most of us living in southwestern Oregon are aware of the threat of a huge earthquake cocked and loaded and in final countdown and aimed directly at our shores.

Schulz describes what would be a massive disaster like nothing our nation has ever seen. She quotes Kenneth Murphy, our regional FEMA director who states that, “everything west of Interstate 5 will be toast.” When pressed by an interviewer on Fox News, he clarified his remark by saying it was the infrastructure to which he was referring. The highways, bridges, railways, power grid and telephone communications, both landline and cellular, would all be taken out. “Toast!”

A couple more significant bits of information: Those who remain in the area after the event can expect to do without electrici-

ty from three to six months, one to three years without pure drinking water or active sewage systems and (get this) three years or more without hospitals.

One big problem with off-shore earthquakes is that they generate tsunamis. I have heard various predictions as to inundation zones and how high and how far the water will reach. Schulz offers that depending on the varying contours of the ocean floor, a tsunami can reach from 20 to 100 feet in height. Yikes!

You can find the entire article online with a quick search. As I said, the article is in-depth, well written, well researched and very informative.

Here are some other resources I recommend on the topic: “Cascadia’s Fault” by Jerry Thompson, “Full Rip 9.0” by Sandi Doughton and “Oregon’s Greatest Natural Disasters” by William Sullivan. The final chapter in Sullivan’s book is a fictional narrative of what it would be like to have a mega-quake strike the Oregon coast followed by a tsunami. Just remember, the time to prepare is now.

On another note, I just received my copy of “Survival MD,” written by a family prac-

itioner, Dr. Radu Scurtu. The author is obviously a prepper and well-versed in all aspects of general medicine. The book is presented in easy-to-understand language and covers every conceivable health topic.

There are chapters on pregnancy, including what to stockpile for a home birth. Another chapter covers alternative medicine, including yoga, herbal remedies, tai chi and meditation. Yet another chapter offers the basics on putting together a medical kit, complete with what to include in your bug-out bag.

This book is available on The Survivalist Blog (and a couple of other similar websites). If you’re lacking in medical knowledge or just want a handy reference guide for all things medical-in-disaster-mode, then get this book. It is available in hard copy or electronic download format. The hard copy is \$22 and well worth the price.

Dave Robinson is the postmaster in Bandon, Ore., and author of “Disaster Prep for the Rest of Us.” He may be contacted at disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Visit his website for more disaster preparedness tips, www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com.

YESTERDAY’S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On July 31, 1916, future racing legend Louise Smith is born in Barnesville, Georgia. In the mid-1940s, racing promoter Bill France was looking for a female driver as a way to attract spectators and recruited Smith, who was famous for outrunning law enforcement on the local roads.

- On Aug. 2, 1923, President Warren G. Harding dies of a stroke. Harding, 58, was returning from a presidential tour, a journey some believed he had embarked on to escape corruption rumors circulating in Washington.

- On July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis is torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Pacific and sinks within minutes in shark-infested waters. Of the 1,196 men on board, an estimated 900 made it into the water and just 317 survived to be rescued four days later.

- On July 29, 1958, Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA was created in response to the Soviet Union’s launch of the first satellite, Sputnik 1.

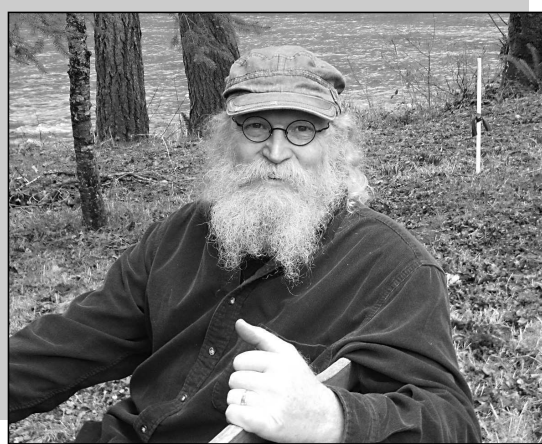
- On Aug. 1, 1961, the amusement park Six Flags Over Texas opens. The park was the first to feature a log flume and a 360-degree looping roller coaster. A day at Six Flags cost \$2.75 for an adult.

- On July 28, 1978, “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” a movie spoof about 1960s college fraternities, starring John Belushi, opens in U.S. theaters. “Animal House” became a box-office hit and part of pop-culture history.

- On July 27, 1981, Adam John Walsh, age 6, is abducted from a mall in Hollywood, Florida, and later found murdered. In the aftermath of the crime, Adam’s father, John Walsh, became a leading victims-rights activist and host of the long-running TV show “America’s Most Wanted.”

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VIEW FROM UPRIVER



Finding a way for all to live

WESLEY VOTH
 For the Siuslaw News

As the season turns to mid-summer, bird-song lessens as their avian chatter turns more to irritation, alarm calls and downright screaming at one another; what should we expect as family sizes swell, competition for food increases and territorial boundaries blur? Blackberries are ripening, but a lack of rain makes them small, low in sugar content, and dried out before they soften to palatability. And it’s incredibly dry — a single spark around our place could reduce us to cinders, as happened to a house belonging to people we know on Duncan Island this past week.

Our river and contributing creeks continue to shrink into themselves. In places where much of the stream bed has been scoured down to bedrock like this section of the Siuslaw, this leaves large areas of flat dry rock looking like the bleached bones of the long dead. In places where streams are less disturbed, grasses and other forbs spring up in the soils trapped by roots

and various sized stones, hiding the reduced flow while keeping the water temperatures cooler, less susceptible to evaporation and helping to provide cover for the myriads of creatures concentrated into its drastically reduced size. I have been disappointed to see places where people have weed-whacked some of these areas to make getting into the water or sunning easier; stream beds are not private property and should be left alone. There are plenty of places where there is bare rock for water and waterside activities.

Less water higher up the ridges brings creatures down to where people are concentrated, and into irrigated farms and gardens and the various other human landscapes. This frequently leads to conflict, with people often resorting to lethal solutions. A bear was recently shot by a resident in this area, something that resulted in an investigation by authorities and reputedly charges being filed. Some folks I talk to are sympathetic with the resident, but more it seems to me value living in an area where wildlife can still be seen. I don’t know of any who intentionally lure bears as some did in the past, as this practice seemed to nearly always turn out badly for the bears in the end, becoming habituated to and unafraid of us, the most deadly of all species.

I would like to make a special plea for some under-appreciated wildlife — the paper wasps, yellow jackets, and bald-faced hornets whose populations naturally rise at this time of year. It is impossible to even look these up online without being bombarded with advertising assuming I only want to know so that I can figure out how to destroy them “quickly, effectively and safely,” and that doing so will bring me “peace of mind.”

I prefer this assessment, from the University of Idaho Extension Agent publication: “All instead should be considered beneficial pollinators, [other insect] predators, and scavengers.” It is usually possible to give these a wide berth, and let them be. Adding yet more poison to our environment kills other things as well.

So many of our actions have unintended consequences. I was recently asked what natural predators these might have, as sometimes one sees their paper nests destroyed this time of year. Although bears, raccoons, skunks and possums are known to break these open and eat the larvae, the ones I usually see broken were in places not accessible to such large animals, and a more likely explanation seems to be crows or ravens, who are keen observers and may learn to target these.

We have recently been seeing deer in our yard during the day on a regular basis; neighbors who have lived in Brickerville far longer say this is new for our immediate vicinity. It has been nice to see them, and we don’t begrudge them the browse they find. Enjoy your summer; please live, and let live, while doing so.

LETTER

Generous community

This past week we experienced another display of gratitude and compassion by the greater Florence community to our dear friend Liz Mobley, serving us well as an expert travel specialist for many years, and who now suffers from an aggressive malignant brain tumor.

The huge crowd, who loved and appreciated her and came to honor her, was so overwhelming that they ran out of food during the July 15 benefit at Little

Brown Hen Cafe.

Thanks to those who took the lead in generating this event and all the volunteers who prepared and served the food, as well as those providing the music. This proves again that Florence is a very special and generous place.

A.J. Brauer
 Florence

This letter was submitted before Liz Mobley passed away earlier this week. Siuslaw News would like to express our sincere condolences to her family and friends. —Editor



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer’s full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:
Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

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John Bartlett
 Jenna Bartlett
 Ryan Cronk
 Susan Gutierrez
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327
 General Manager, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Advertising Director, ext. 326
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 Press Manager

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WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comments: 202-456-1111
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 FAX: 202-456-2461
 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213
 www.whitehouse.gov

202-224-5244
 541-431-0229
 www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997
 541-465-6750

FAX: 503-986-1080
 Email:
 Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown
 (Dist. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email:

rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner
 Jay Bozievich
 125 E. Eighth St.
 Eugene, OR 97401
 541-682-4203
 FAX: 541-682-4616
 Email:
 Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us

Gov. Kate Brown
 160 State Capitol
 900 Court St.
 Salem, OR 97301-4047
 Governor’s Citizens’ Rep.
 Message Line 503-378-4582
 www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.)
 2134 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-6416/ 800-944-9603
 541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732
 www.defazio.house.gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510

State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5)
 900 Court St. NE - S-417
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1705