

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON
 Special to the Siuslaw News

Evacuation

There is a concept among preppers known as “Bugging Out.” I remember the term from watching reruns of “M.A.S.H.” Whenever Radar O’Reilly, Major Henry Blake and Hawkeye were ordered to move their Mobile And Surgical Hospital unit to a new location, they would make plans to “bug out.”

Today’s preppers use the term to describe an evacuation process to be executed when the current abode becomes too dangerous to stay put or uninhabitable.

The likelihood of evacuation in our area is usually minor. Our weather events don’t equal the hurricanes of the East Coast and Gulf Coast states. Nor do we get the blizzards of the northern regions of our country. We have had isolated instances of evacuation due to flooding and landslides in the past, and for those living in the tsunami inundation zone, bugging out should be a part of your action plan.

You can be assured if I lived in a major city or in the hurricane zone, my preparation plans would include how to get my family and supplies out of town on short

notice. (Or in prepper lingo, “Out of Dodge.”)

Living in rural Oregon, we have several things to our advantage. Our relatively sparse population is far more self-sufficient and more good-neighbor minded than big city folks. If you’ve ever watched the news during a big storm or hurricane in a densely-populated area, you see looting and other outlaw behavior. Not exactly conducive to the “come on, let’s work together to get through this” mindset so vital to community survival and workable in a small town.

There seems to be a segment of society always on the cusp of criminal behavior. This group of potential criminals allow themselves to be drawn over the line of unacceptable behavior at the slightest provocation and loot, pillage and even worse when they know the police have their hands full with other matters. You can bet your emergency generator this group has never laid in an extra flashlight battery or can of Spam. Their “plan” such as it is, will be to take your supplies in the event of a disaster. This is precisely why, if I lived in a

metropolitan area, I would be planning to “get out of Dodge” if necessary.

If you have relatives or loved ones in the big cities, send them a copy of this column and suggest they make plans to “bug out” if the need arises.

If you’d like to read more on the topic of bugging out, there is an excellent blog titled, “Listening to Katrina.” The author was forced to evacuate his family in the face of Hurricane Katrina. The blog is over 100 pages long, so consider your ink supply before you hit the “print” button. He has a very balanced and intelligent approach to preparedness and bugging out.

Another of my favorites is a book titled “One Second After,” by William Forstchen. This book has been cited on the floor of Congress as one all Americans should read.

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.disasterprep.dave.blogspot.com.

YESTERDAY’S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Aug. 4, 1892, Andrew and Abby Borden, elderly residents of Fall River, Mass., are found bludgeoned to death in their home. Suspicion soon fell on daughter Lizzie and the axe she’d just bought. At her trial, the jury only took 90 minutes to decide that such a sweet-looking Christian woman could never commit such a heinous crime.

- On Aug. 6, 1928, Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the latter part of the 20th century, is born Andrew Warhola in Pennsylvania. After being incorrectly credited as “Warhol” under an early published drawing, he decided to permanently remove the “a” from his last name.

- On Aug. 9, 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan’s surrender. The devastation wrought at Hiroshima had not been sufficient to persuade the Japanese War Council to accept the Potsdam Conference’s demand for unconditional surrender.

- On Aug. 3, 1958, the U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. The Nautilus dived at Point Barrow, Alaska, and traveled nearly 1,000 miles under the Arctic ice cap to reach the top of the world.

- On Aug. 6, 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose “communist aggression” in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

- On Aug. 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs host the first night game in the history of Wrigley Field. The first-ever night game in professional baseball took place nearly 60 years earlier in Des Moines, Iowa.

- On Aug. 5, 2002, the rusty iron gun turret of the ironclad warship U.S.S. Monitor was raised from the floor of the Atlantic, where it had rested since it went down in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, during the Civil War. She sank in December 1862, while being towed from Cape Hatteras.

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LETTERS

Superb ‘Canvas’

I was treated recently to a wonderful production at the Florence Playhouse. Fool’s Haven, a talented group of actors from Eugene, staged a two-part program that was definitely worthy of praise in the public forum.

Part One consisted of vignettes from two absurdist plays, one by Harold Pinter and one by Samuel Becket, and an original work from a local playwright. The scenes were well performed, and provided an excellent showcase for the actors’ skill and craft.

Part Two was an exceptionally well-written piece called “Raw Canvas.” Written to be performed by one woman, it was brought to life by a canny and adept actress

named Nancy Hopps.

Her insightful, energetic and multifaceted performance guides us through the thought processes experienced by “Rosalyn” as she wrestles with the difficult decision of what to do with the rest of her life. Told both in flashback and stream of consciousness, Rosalyn is a woman who has always done what was expected of her. Now approaching middle age, a passion for art and painting has awakened in her, changed her life in a myriad of unexpected ways, and has lead her to the proverbial “fork in the road.”

“Raw Canvas” is deeply emotional, and judging by the questions and comments that came out during the after-performance discussion with the actors, obviously res-

onated with audience members in a number of different ways.

The majority of the audience were women; however, I believe that this play would strike a chord with both men and women — anyone who has ever reached a cross-road in their lives and has had to choose between playing it safe or taking a risk; doing what they’re supposed to do or following their heart. Whether you agree with Rosalyn’s feelings and choices or not, the play inspires thought and lively discussion. And, after all, isn’t that what good theater is supposed to do?

This play is scheduled to return for another engagement on Aug. 14-16. It is well worth seeing.

Mary Conley
 Florence

Grand museum

We had a wonderful grand opening at the Oregon Coast Military Museum on July 4. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

What a terrific job all the volunteers had done with the displays, information and food. We had Mayor Joe Henry at the grill station and First Lady Pam was serving up hamburgers and hot dogs all day long. They served more than 600 people before the festivities were over and then assisted with the clean up. They seemed to be tireless, but that can’t be true.

We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers to support our museum. Many thanks to them all.

Pamela Richardson
 Florence

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:
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