

**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
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# Opinion

## DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON  
 Special to the Siuslaw News

## Evacuation

The recent heat wave in our region has been, at worst, an inconvenience for most of us. Elsewhere in the Northwest there have been all manner of wildland fires resulting, according to one news report, in the loss of over 300 homes. That's at least 300 families who were ordered to get out and find safety elsewhere.

The need for evacuation is rare in our region as we don't have the hurricanes, tornados or some of the other major weather events to which the rest of the nation is subjected. But at this writing, several major wildland fires are threatening more homes and scorching thousands of acres of forest land.

Here's the scene: Just imagine a lightning storm the night before. The news says 47 lightning strikes in our county have ignited 36 fires. Some have been contained, but firefighters from all over the Northwest are responding to several fires whose flames have been fanned by offshore winds and dry conditions aren't helping matters. You are aware there are firetrucks running up and down the roads, airplanes are flying low overhead and just as you are sitting

down to dinner a deputy sheriff pulls into your driveway. He seems rushed and tells you in a matter-of-fact tone that all the residences in your neighborhood are being evacuated. You have two hours to gather your things and go to a safer location.

A million thoughts are flooding your mind: Where should we go? What should we take? Who does what? Right here is where panic can set in and you literally accomplish nothing of significance. Either that or you can gather your family and hand them each their assignments. The evacuation is underway and you and your loved ones will make an orderly retreat to your brother's place in the next county.

The experts tell us there are three levels of evacuation: Level 1: Be ready. Residents are encouraged to move livestock and pets out of the area. Evacuation is voluntary at this point. Level 2: Residents are ordered to leave soon. Roads are usually closed and entry to evacuated areas may be denied. Residents may have time to gather necessary items, but will do so at their own risk. Level 3: This is an order to leave immediately, that imminent danger exists and there is no time to gather personal belongings.

Some evacuations are handled by giving the residents a sheet of paper containing some instructions. This can include the five "P's" — People and Pets (and other livestock), Papers (important documents), Prescriptions, including hearing aids, eyeglasses and your medications, Photographs, so your memories are preserved, and last is your Personal Computer. There is often invaluable, irreplaceable data on your hard drive.

Of course, having a complete 72-hour kit at the ready is going to ease the task of what to take, but as always having a plan in place will eliminate a whole lot of confusion when the time comes to evacuate.

When you have a plan, the panic factor, not to mention the stress on the marriage, is greatly diminished.

Just keep in mind: The time to prepare is now, before there is an emergency.

*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](mailto:disasterprep.dave@gmail.com). Visit his website for more disaster preparedness tips, [www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com](http://www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com).*

## YESTERDAY'S NEWS

### MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Aug. 10, 1776, news reaches London that the Americans have drafted the Declaration of Independence. Parliament was unwilling to negotiate with the American rebels and hired Hessians, German mercenaries, to help the British army crush the rebellion.

- On Aug. 13, 1903, engineer Felix Wankel, inventor of a rotary engine, is born in Lahr, Germany. Wankel reportedly came up with the basic idea for a new type of internal combustion gasoline engine when he was only 17 years old.

- On Aug. 15, 1914, the American-built Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, is inaugurated with the passage of the U.S. vessel Ancon, a cargo and passenger ship. Engineers moved nearly 240 million cubic yards of earth in constructing the 40-mile-long canal.

- On Aug. 11, 1934, the first group of federal prisoners classified as "most dangerous" arrives at Alcatraz Island, a 22-acre rocky outcrop in San Francisco Bay. The convicts joined military prisoners left over from the island's days as a U.S. military prison.

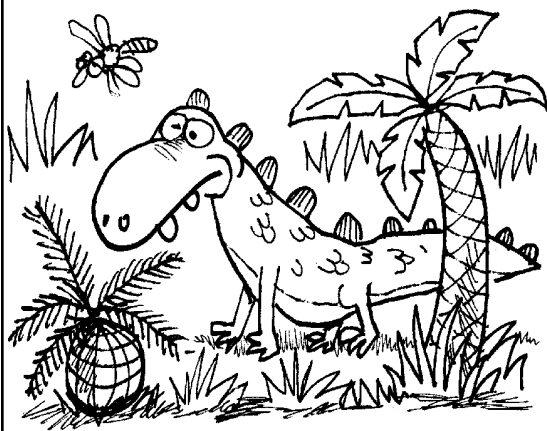
- On Aug. 12, 1973, golfer Jack Nicklaus wins the PGA Championship for his 14th major title, surpassing Bobby Jones' 43-year-old record.

- On Aug. 16, 1984, John DeLorean, founder of the DeLorean Motor Company, is found not guilty due to entrapment after being charged with smuggling drugs in an effort to raise money for his struggling automobile company.

- On Aug. 14, 1994, Illich Ramirez Sanchez, the terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal, is captured in Sudan by French intelligence agents. In 1975, Sanchez and his men took 70 OPEC officials hostage at a Vienna conference, escaping with up to \$50 million in ransom after killing three hostages.

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DIDN'T EVOLVE...



DIED...



TURNED TO COAL



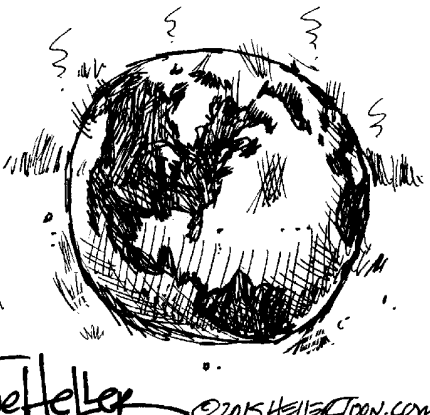
TURNED TO COAL...



DIDN'T EVOLVE...



DIED



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## LETTERS

### Grand Army Band

What a lot of brass our Army has, and oboes, guitars and booming drums.

Great entertainment from a group of talented men and women from our armed forces at the Florence Events Center, who played, sang and cut-up for our pleasure on July 28.

Hope you were there to enjoy!  
 Anne Kersey  
 Florence

### Healthy food

I just read Dr. Joel Fuhrman's article ("Ten Best, Worst Foods for Health") in the Aug. 1, 2015

issue of the Siuslaw News. After reading it, I was struck with an interesting thought.

I wonder if eating the "10 best foods" and avoiding the "10 worst foods" really makes you live longer, or it just makes it seem longer?

Bob Miller  
 Florence

### Exciting election

I would say that Donald Trump is pretty smart. He has everyone talking about him and it didn't cost him a dime. Gobs of publications have plastered his face in front of everyone on Earth, again at no cost to the Donald.

He will probably burn out before the election, but he is saying things the other politicians won't say that need to be addressed.

Since Hillary Clinton may well be in jail before the election, this will prove to be an interesting election season.

Martin Cable  
 Florence

### Wonderful tribute

You've got to visit Florence's latest "claim to fame," the Oregon Coast Military Museum. It is a major accomplishment for a community the size of Florence, and certainly speaks for the qual-

ity and dedication of the people here.

I have recorded its progress from the ground up and am totally amazed at what has been accomplished by so few very talented and dedicated people. The quality of the work is of Smithsonian caliber and so fittingly displayed and arranged to depict their actual surroundings.

It's an outstanding and wonderful tribute to all of the soldiers, sailors, marines and coast guard members who gave their life to win and maintain our freedom and quality of life.

Don't miss it!  
 Jim Kaul  
 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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