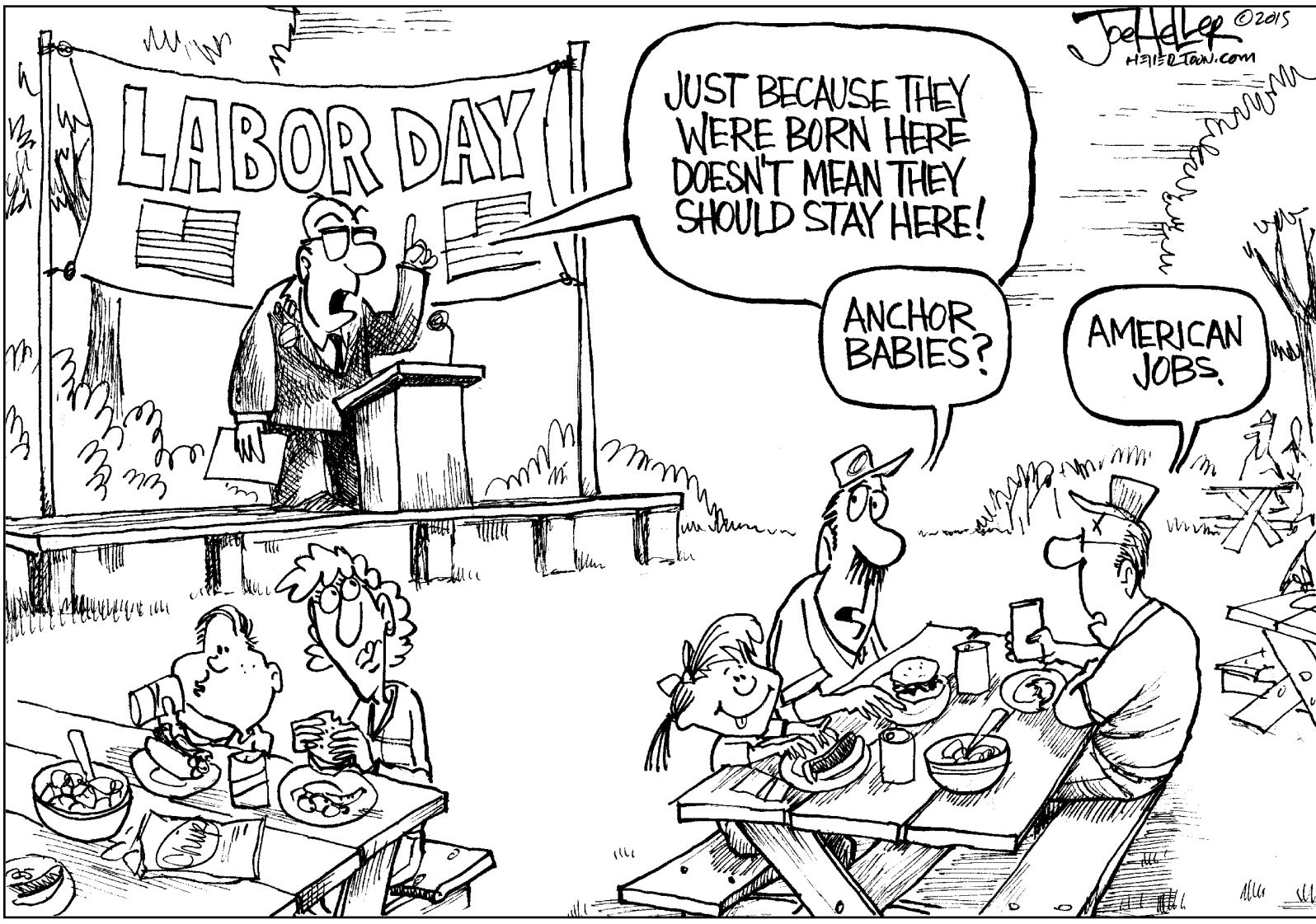


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion



YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Sept. 10, 1608, English adventurer John Smith is elected council president of Jamestown, Virginia — the first permanent English settlement in North America. Smith had won popularity in the colony because of his organizational abilities and effectiveness in dealing with local Native American groups.

- On Sept. 7, 1813, the United States gets its nickname, Uncle Sam. The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a New York meat packer who supplied barrels of beef to the Army during the War of 1812. Wilson stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's."

- On Sept. 9, 1939, audiences at the Fox Theater in Riverside, California, get a surprise showing of "Gone With the Wind" as a second feature. Producer David O. Selznick sat in the back and observed the audience reaction to his highly anticipated film.

- On Sept. 12, 1940, near Montignac, France, a collection of prehistoric cave paintings is discovered by four teenagers. The roughly 16,000-year-old paintings, mostly of animals, are among the finest examples of art from the Upper Paleolithic period.

- On Sept. 11, 1965, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) begins to arrive in South Vietnam, bringing U.S. troop strength to more than 125,000. The unit was the first full U.S. Army division deployed to Vietnam.

- On Sept. 8, 1974, in a controversial executive action, President Gerald Ford pardons his disgraced predecessor Richard Nixon for crimes committed while in office involving the Watergate scandal.

- On Sept. 13, 1990, the drama series "Law & Order" premieres on NBC. It would go on to become one of the longest-running prime-time dramas in TV history — 20 seasons. The "Law & Order" franchise was created by Dick Wolf, who began his TV career as a writer for "Miami Vice."

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DISASTER PREP

By Dave Robinson
 Special to the Siuslaw News

Make a plan

The theme for disaster preparedness nationwide is, "Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed." Most folks are on board with the "Get A Kit" part, now let's "Make A Plan." We all remember fire drills from our school days. Everybody knew exactly where to go and how to get there. There was no standing around discussing what to do. We didn't vote on our options nor did we argue. We had been trained and if there ever had been a fire, we had a plan. For that reason, deaths from school structure fires are extremely rare in the United States. Likewise, we should plan for our personal emergencies as well.

When planning what to do in the event of a disaster, we need to identify the types of hazards we may face in our region. Here on the Oregon coast, it is unlikely (although not entirely out of the question) that we will be hit by a tornado. Likewise, hurricanes and winter blizzards are for the folks in other parts of the country. We could have severe winter wind and rain storms, some flooding, or the big concern, earthquake followed by a tsunami.

While it is impossible to plan for every

contingency, it is possible to make general plans.

The military knows that when the shooting starts, soldiers don't necessarily panic, but they don't think as clearly as usual. When the pressure is on, soldiers rely on their training. Same thing happens with the rest of us in an emergency. If we have a plan, we can move decisively and save precious seconds, possibly saving lives.

Discuss with your family what to do if the house is on fire. What steps would you take to reunite your family if you are shopping in another city while the kids are at school and a disaster happens. If it is impossible to get back home, do the kids know what to do? Is there a friend who can step up and take care of your little ones until you can get home?

How about if the roads are flooded unexpectedly and the buses can't get your students home? Do you know the school district's policy regarding natural disasters? If not, take a look at your child's student handbook and familiarize yourself with the policy.

Not only do you need to plan for various

contingencies, but plan for various locations. You will plan differently for your workplace than if you're at home.

When the Twin Towers were hit on 9/11, many stood around discussing what to do. Consequently, lives were lost because of wasted time. Have a plan, and if you need to use it, act quickly, as in right now!

While we're planning, don't forget to plan for your pets. One of the lessons learned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was that pets are often neglected in the chaos of a disaster. It doesn't hurt to have some extra dog food on hand, as well as extra medicine, if needed.

So do some "what if" thinking about various scenarios and see what you come up with. Remember, a failure to plan is a plan to fail.

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.

LETTERS

Best kept secret in town

A friend recently talked me into riding our Rhody Express public transit bus. Wow! Boy, was I ever impressed! I had been apprehensive to try it because I was envisioning the old-time, crowded big-city bus or subway with all kinds of undesirables crowding on.

Instead, I found that Rick, the driver, was very pleasant; the bus was not crowded at all; and it was like having my own personal chauffeur drive me to go shopping, or to a medical appointment, in a really nice limousine-style, com-

fortable chariot for only \$1. You can ride all day, getting on and off, for just \$2.

The fixed route loop only takes an hour to end up where you started. This is going to be great for me when the rainy weather starts. I can get off the bus at nearly every shopping center in town (or gamble at the casino) and get back on board after just an hour to go home with my groceries or new fortune.

Try it! I'm sure you'll be as impressed with it as much as I was. Don't keep this convenient service a secret — unless you don't want to share the fun with your neighbor.

Contact the City of Florence or River Cities Taxi for a time schedule, brochure or more information. Happy riding! See you on board.

Bill Craig
 Florence

Florence gas prices

With the fall of crude oil prices, the residents of Florence are seeing little benefit being passed on from the local outlets. There may be no collusion between outlets, but if nobody reduces prices, there appears little incentive for any station to pass on lower costs to consumers.

In Florence, gas prices have dropped around 10 cents per gallon, while in Eugene and Medford the prices are around 25 cents per gallon cheaper than here.

Florence did enjoy having gas 10 cents per gallon less than Eugene, but with what appears to be no true competition between stations, they have to be making far more than the previous margins.

Go online and email local retailers to ask why we are not benefitting from the lower prices elsewhere.

Frank Keavy
 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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