

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

# Opinion

## DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON  
 Special to the Siuslaw News

# Just a little tune-up

As the seasons change and we seem to be working our way into winter, we are all breathing a word of thanks for the much-needed moisture. And though adverse conditions are always a possibility, seems like the odds increase this time of year.

For many, it may be time to take a look at your emergency kit. If you stocked up on jerky a few months ago, or if cheese crackers are a part of your get home bag (like mine), then you may want to rotate your supplies. Check for freshness or vermin or just make sure that the dates are current on your canned goods.

If not, then it's time to move those items to the front of the shelf and re-stock with fresh. I use a vacuum food sealer to store some items (not just food) to keep them dry and dust-free. I have found that sometimes the seals come undone, so be sure to double-check those items and re-seal the ones that need it.

Check your emergency water supply. Those 2-1/2 gallon jugs with the built-in spigot are really handy for short-term use, camping and sliding in the refrigerator, but

they tend to leak if you leave them in the closet for lengthy periods of time. Personal-sized water bottles are handy to have, but they, too, need to be swapped out for fresh ones after a few months. Consider a stand-alone water filter.

One lesson I've learned the hard way is regarding rechargeable devices. Those lanterns, Storm Stations and all sorts of rechargeable devices, are designed to be plugged in all the time (according to the manufacturer) until you need them. It has been my experience that if they've been sitting unused, but plugged in as instructed for a couple of years, the batteries tend to go bad. Those things are expensive and in some cases, difficult to replace. It is maddening to think you've got things covered only to learn you can't rely on the very thing you were relying on.

So if you have a rechargeable device sitting on the shelf, use it once in awhile. According to my electrical engineer friend, that battery needs some exercise. Unplugging it for about three weeks out of four will also extend the life of most rechargeable batteries.

I rarely recommend gadgets and gizmos to purchase, but after you've saved up for your water filter, I suggest buying a NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio. NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information 24/7.

NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards, including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 telephone outages). Make sure it's one that is battery powered. There are also several that are solar, hand-cranked and battery powered. One for every budget. Shop around and find one that appeals to you.

*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 Nov. 28, 1582, William Shakespeare, 18, and Anne Hathaway, 26, pay a 40-pound bond for their marriage license in Stratford-upon-Avon. Six months later, Anne gives birth to their daughter, Susanna, and two years later, to twins.

- On Nov. 27, 1703, an unusual freak storm finally dissipates over England after wreaking havoc for two weeks. Packing hurricane-strength winds, the storm killed between 10,000 and 30,000 people, and sank hundreds of Royal Navy ships.

- On Nov. 29, 1929, American explorer Richard Byrd and three companions make the first flight over the South Pole. In 1996, a diary of Byrd's was found that seemed to suggest his plane had turned back 150 miles short of its goal because of an oil leak.

- On Nov. 23, 1936, the first issue of Life magazine is published, featuring a cover photo of the Fort Peck Dam. When it folded during the Great Depression, publisher Henry Luce bought the name and re-launched Life as a picture-based periodical.

- On Nov. 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill officially establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. In 1789, President George Washington had proclaimed a holiday of national thanks-giving for the U.S. Constitution.

- On Nov. 24, 1971, a hijacker calling himself D.B. Cooper — wearing only wraparound sunglasses, a thin suit and a raincoat — parachutes from an airplane into a thunderstorm with 100-mph winds and temperatures well below zero over Washington state. Despite a massive search, no trace of Cooper or the \$200,000 in ransom money he carried was ever found.

- On Nov. 25, 1990, after a howling wind-and-rainstorm on Thanksgiving Day, Washington state's historic floating Lacey V. Murrow Memorial Bridge breaks apart and sinks to the bottom of Lake Washington. The bridge had been made of 22 floating pontoons.

(c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.



## LETTERS

### A nice tribute

Wow! What a wonderful tribute, honoring and thanking local veterans for their service in the armed forces of the United States of America. The Shorewood left no stone unturned — great food, great entertainment, a very warm reception to all of the services.

It was an amazing example of gratitude and giving to recognize the services of all the veterans of World War II and succeeding military pursuits for the common good.

Jim Kaul  
 Florence

### Columbus Day name change

Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on Oct. 12, 1492. It is a celebration of the discovery of our country. I understand that there is evidence that the Viking explorers from Scandinavia came here first. I know that there was already a population of indigenous peoples that had "discovered" the Americas thousand of years before.

Opposition to Columbus Day dates back to the 19th century where activists sought to eradicate

Columbus Day celebrations because of its association with immigrants and the Knights of Columbus. They were afraid the holiday was being used to expand Catholic influence.

The most common opposition today decrying Columbus and Europeans' actions against the indigenous peoples did not gain much traction until the latter half of the 20th century. The American Indian Movement accused our ancestors of acts of genocide. Columbus has been shown to be a nasty character that would do well in this day and age because of his relentless quest to advance his ambitions and his self-promotion. Several other historical figures spring to mind as well.

To me, history should be factual, concise and honest. Civilization has gone forward from day one to invade and conquer land and its peoples for food, water, minerals, land, etc. In fact, someday sooner than I want to believe, some group of people will try to conquer America's land and people. Read the paper, watch the evening news, catch up on world events on your computer — scary.

There are so many issues in Florence that need the attention of our local leaders. I would like

to suggest that these leaders concentrate on making Florence a safer, less hungry and maybe a little less politically correct first, then tackle the other things.

Changing the name of this holiday isn't going to find a job for an out-of-work citizen/veteran, it's not going to help feed a family that needs community help or find shelter for someone left out in the cold this winter.

My lesson has now ended.  
 Elizabeth Burtleson  
 Florence

### Create another day instead

In a recent edition of the Siuslaw News, there appeared a story on the front page regarding a member of the city council, Ron Preisler, recommending a change in name from our holiday of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day ("City Considers Columbus Day Name Change," Nov. 10).

Seems to me we are getting a lot of PC (politically correct) changes recommended these days. I have contacted many of my neighbors and friends, many of my local military comrades regarding his suggestion.

I have no objection to a day for Indigenous Peoples Day whatso-

ever, and neither do they, but the consensus was leave our heritage alone and create another date for them instead.

Hopefully, the mayor and council will consider this suggestion at the council meeting in January.

Tony Cavarno  
 Florence

### Welcome Syrians

My heart aches for the innocent victims of the Paris attacks and also for the Syrian refugees who were just trying to live their lives when war broke out in Syria. They are suffering horrendous conditions with no safe haven. I would not want to be in their shoes.

We need to welcome Syrian refugees. The United States has a very thorough security process, including Homeland Security, FBI and CIA, before Syrian refugees are allowed to stay here.

The horrific actions of an extremist sect of Islam don't mean all Muslims are terrorists. We cannot let our fear of terror compromise our humanity, our American history of welcoming immigrants and our compassion for those less fortunate.

Julie MacFarlane  
 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:

[Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com](mailto:Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com)

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2015 © Siuslaw News

## Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to [PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com](mailto:PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com).

John Bartlett	Publisher, ext. 327
Jenna Bartlett	General Manager, ext. 318
Ryan Cronk	Editor, ext. 313
Susan Gutierrez	Advertising Director, ext. 326
Cathy Dietz	Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Ron Annis	Production Supervisor
Jeremy Gentry	Press Manager

### DEADLINES:

**Wednesday Issue**—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.  
**Saturday Issue**—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$71; 10-weeks subscription, \$18; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$94; 10-weeks subscription, \$24; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$120; Out of United States — 1-year subscription, \$200; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.  
 Website and E-Edition: [www.TheSiuslawNews.com](http://www.TheSiuslawNews.com)

## 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 <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>	202-224-5244 541-431-0229 <a href="http://www.wyden.senate.gov">www.wyden.senate.gov</a>	FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: <a href="mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us">Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us</a>
U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750	U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510	State Rep. Caddy McKeown (Dist. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: <a href="mailto:rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us">rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us</a>
Gov. Kate Brown 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, OR 97301-4047 Governor's Citizens' Rep. Message Line 503-378-4582 <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/gov">www.oregon.gov/gov</a>	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 <a href="http://www.defazio.house.gov">www.defazio.house.gov</a>	West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich 125 E. Eighth St. Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-4203 FAX: 541-682-4616 Email: <a href="mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us">Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us</a>
U.S. Rep. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5) 900 Court St. NE - S-417 Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1705		