

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON
 Special to the Siuslaw News

Kit building: Weeks 5 & 6

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross, the mantra for disaster preparedness is: Get A Kit, Make A Plan and Be Informed. Trust me when I say that survival is not a kit. Knowledge is more important than “stuff.” Preparedness and survival is all about a plan, your kit is simply a big part of your plan. I must admit that building a kit is more fun than making a plan, but it is all about a balanced approach to coming out ahead in the event of a disaster.

For the past few columns, I have been providing a shopping list and a list of tips for building a 72-hour kit. I firmly believe a 72-hour kit is only a good start. Your plan should be to extend your kit to a 14-day supply as most disasters don’t know to stop at 72 hours.

After seven weeks, those who participate will have a well-rounded starter kit that should see them through most emergencies. Because we all have different needs, everyone’s kit will be different. Some of us have babies in the house, so those families will want to stock up on infants’ things, others will have folks with special needs and those requirements must be considered as you build your kit and make your plan.

For those reasons, I don’t recommend buying one of the kits on the market, as they will probably not meet your family’s complete needs during an actual emergency. So having said that, let’s get to it!

Things to buy for Week 5:

1. Gloves. Latex or non/latex, plus a good pair of work gloves.
2. Paper plates, cups and utensils.
3. Canned vegetables, soup/stew.
4. Toilet paper (lots) and paper towels.
5. Travel sizes of personal hygiene items, dental care, soap, feminine care, deodorant, etc.

6. Disinfectant wipes.
7. Supplies for baby, elderly or special needs.

Tips for Week 5

Select an emergency contact person residing out of the area for family members to contact in case they are separated. Sometimes it’s easier to connect a phone call out of the area than it is to get through locally.

Keep a copy of this seven-week list in your car when you go shopping. Check off items as you go.

Make sure that all adults and teens in your household know how to shut off water and utilities.

Never use a portable generator in an enclosed area. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Funny thing about disaster preparedness, our parents and grandparents simply “put up” their garden produce, butchered a half of beef and froze it and otherwise laid up stores for the winter months. The current generation goes to the store nearly every day to decide what to have for dinner, has no idea what to do with real flour and is nearly crippled without electricity.

With all the microwaveable conveniences and our fast-food on-demand mentality, the thought of actually preparing in case something goes wrong is often times a foreign concept.

Nevertheless, there are some of us who remember life without microwave ovens and Hamburger Helper. Some who have lived through events that knocked out power and weather that precluded safe travel. Improving conditions during times of difficulty can be as simple as having some extra food on hand, or a camping stove or alternative lighting or maybe just fresh batteries for the flashlight.

Things to buy for Week 6:

1. Blankets and small pillows. A good quality sleeping bag is a good substitute.
2. Towels. Set aside some extra towels and if you are preparing a go-bag for each family member, a towel is a must-have.
3. Extra clothing and outerwear, and sturdy, comfortable footwear.
4. Small photo album with current photos of family members and pets
5. Assorted crackers and nuts (low salt or salt-free are best to reduce thirst).

Tips for Week 6:

Do you have home fire extinguishers? Are they rated ABC? If so, check with your local fire department to have them inspected and learn when they should be replaced. Residential fires are the most frequent disasters and having a working fire extinguisher can mean the difference between minor damage and losing your home.

Consider using five-gallon plastic buckets with lids for storing your supplies. They are light, strong and dust-, water- and bug-proof, and relatively inexpensive. Remember to pick up a “lid lifter” at your hardware store. You can also ask if they are “food grade” plastic. Markings on the bottom of the bucket tell the tale.

Mark your storage containers with a permanent marker.

Also mark expiration dates and plan to rotate supplies every six months. Some folks use the change to Daylight Savings Time to remind them it’s time to change out the old stuff for new.

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 June 11, 1509, King Henry VIII of England marries Catherine of Aragon, the first of his eventual six wives. When Catherine failed to produce a male heir, Henry divorced her against the will of the Roman Catholic Church, thus precipitating the Protestant Reformation in England.

- On June 9, 1772, colonists, angered by the British Parliament’s passing of the Townshend Acts restricting colonial trade, board the HMS Gaspee, an armed British customs schooner, and set it aflame. When British officials arrived to investigate the incident, they found no one willing to identify those involved.

- On June 12, 1924, the first Bush president, George Herbert Walker Bush, is born in Milton, Massachusetts. Bush served in the Navy during World War II and survived a harrowing ordeal when his torpedo bomber was shot down over the Pacific.

- On June 8, 1948, a hand-built aluminum prototype labeled “No. 1” becomes the first vehicle to bear the name of Porsche. Dubbed the Type 356, the sports car used modified Volkswagen drivetrain components.

- On June 7, 1962, the banking institution Credit Suisse opens the first drive-through bank in Switzerland. The branch featured eight glass pavilions, seven outfitted for left-hand drive cars and one for right-hand drive vehicles.

- On June 6, 1981, more than 500 passengers are killed when their train plunges into the Bagmati River in India. The rail accident was caused by a Hindu engineer who slammed on the brakes to avoid a cow, considered a sacred animal.

- On June 10, 2002, Clint Messina and Rose Houk steal a Krispy Creme doughnut delivery truck and lead Louisiana police on a 15-mile chase, leaving a trail of doughnuts behind. As it involved cops and doughnuts, the incident kept late-night comedians busy for days.

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LETTERS

Disappointing outcome

I was disappointed to see that residents of the Siuslaw School District failed to pass the bond measure for a new high school. As a retiree on a fixed income, I also understand that we only have a limited amount of money to spend. However, failing to pass this bond measure will have an unintended ramification that we might not have thought about — namely, the quality of our health care.

We are in a situation in Florence where it is extremely difficult to find health care providers who want to move to our community. One of the issues that is often raised by potential employees is the educational system in Florence. What doctor is going to want to send their children to a school that is unsafe and inadequate when they can find another community that obviously values educating its children more, providing them with a first-class educational system from kindergarten through high school?

I hope that Siuslaw School District will continue to work on a plan to improve our educational system in Florence and the surrounding area that it serves and present another bond issue in the future that will be presented in



detail to property owners for their approval.

It is not only important for the education of our children, it is important for all of us who want quality health care in our community.

Patricia Reno
 Florence

Don’t feed the deer

The reason I’m writing is to let folks know why it’s illegal to feed the deer.

I live on a beautiful piece of property just south of Florence in Dunes City. We have 165 acres and pretty much have a nursery for does and their fawns, and bucks visit during the fall.

The last few years someone locally has been

feeding dry corn to the deer, and lots of it. I personally have found four dead deer with their stomachs completely packed full of corn that has swollen up after consumption, and I’m sure this wasn’t a pleasant way to die.

Please don’t feed the deer. It’s illegal. It harms the animals and upsets the natural chain of life for wild animals. Store-bought apples with paraffin-coated peels and plastic stickers, dried corn, oats and barley are not natural food sources.

Brian Gray
 Dunes City

Bernie’s claim to fame

Bernie Sanders’ one claim to fame after a long stint at the public feeding trough (politician) is being the chair of a senate committee in charge of overseeing the Veterans Affairs.

As we all have been made aware of, the Veterans Affairs has been and is still a horrible disaster. And now, there are those of you that would like to make him president.

Let’s give America a chance to be great again and put Bernie out to pasture.

Martin Cable
 Dunes City

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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