

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON
 Special to the Siuslaw News

Kit building: Week 7

For the past several columns, I have been listing items to purchase to complete a 72-hour disaster preparedness kit. As I have mentioned, a 72-hour kit is only a good start. Fourteen days is much better and more if you can manage it.

Building an emergency kit does not need to break the bank. Picking up a few extra items now and then will build up over a period of time and before long your pantry is filled with supplies that will carry you through a disaster.

But for now, the primary plan is to “just do it” and a 72-hour kit is a great start.

Things to buy for Week 7:

1. Small tool kit. Include a wrench (slip-joint wrench like “Channellocks” or water pump pliers) for shutting off utilities, hammer, nails, screwdrivers, screws, duct tape, zip ties, etc. This is one aspect of the kit that can grow, swell and improve with every trip to the hardware store.
2. Signal flares.
3. Insect repellent. While we’re on this topic, I have recently read about people using wasp/hornet spray for personal

defense. It’s less expensive than pepper spray, reaches out at least 20 feet and temporarily incapacitates anyone intent on causing you harm.

4. Sunscreen.
5. Granola or dry cereal.
6. Extra pet food. Also if your pet requires medication, get some extra for them as well. And don’t forget, your pet requires water.
7. Fire extinguisher. Be sure it carries the ABC rating. If you need training in its use, contact your local fire department.

Tips for Week 7:

- Be sure to include pets in your plan. When you leave town, take your go-bag along. Disasters don’t always happen while you’re at home. At that point it becomes your “get home” bag.
- Keep your car’s gas tank above half tank. You never know when you get that call in the middle of the night to go visit your ailing, wealthy aunt in the hospital. Not a time to be out of gas with none available.
- Remember, survival is not a kit. Survival is a plan and the kit should be a part of your

plan. It is best to keep your kit in a single location, not strewn about the house, some things in one closet, other items in the basement and yet other things stacked in the garage. Try to set aside an area for all your gear and supplies.

When the power goes out and things are mildly chaotic at your house, you don’t want to be searching in the dark for your stuff. Make sure the battery powered lantern is the most easily-located item in your inventory.

The power seldom goes out during daylight hours. Flashlights, lanterns and other lighting devices are the first things you will want to get operational.

Happy prepping!
 This concludes the seven-part series on Building Your Kit.

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 19, 1864, the most successful and feared Confederate commerce raider of the war, the CSS Alabama, sinks after a battle with the USS Kearsarge off the coast of France. After three years and 75,000 miles, the Alabama needed overhauling and was taken to France, where the USS Kearsarge was lying in wait.

- On June 16, 1884, the first roller coaster in America opens at Coney Island, New York. The coaster traveled 6 mph and cost a nickel to ride. The name Coney Island is believed to have come from the Dutch Konijn Eilandt, or Rabbit Island.

- On June 18, 1923, the first Checker Cab rolls off the line in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1922, with some 600 Checker Cabs on the streets of New York City alone, owner Morris Markin went looking for a bigger factory and settled on Kalamazoo.

- On June 14, 1954, more than 12 million Americans “die” in a mock nuclear attack, as the United States goes through its first nationwide civil-defense drill. The event stood as a stark reminder that the world was now living under a nuclear shadow.

- On June 13, 1966, the Supreme Court hands down its decision in Miranda v. Arizona, establishing the principle that all criminal suspects must be advised of their rights before interrogation. Ernesto Miranda had been arrested and not told he didn’t have to say anything.

- On June 17, 1972, five burglars are arrested in the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. An extensive investigation unveiled a scheme of political sabotage and espionage, which ultimately resulted in the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

- On June 15, 1986, stock-car driver Richard Petty makes the 1,000th start of his NASCAR career, at Michigan International Speedway. “The King” would extend his record to 1,184 career starts before his retirement in 1992.

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VIEW FROM UPRIVER



Missing

WESLEY VOTH
 For the Siuslaw News

weren’t evident this time were gray jays, Clark’s nutcracker and woodpeckers other than flickers.

We did not hear hermit thrushes while hiking in to some of the lakes we like to fish this time of year, and there were none of the usual waterfowl nesting there. Flittering over the lakes the most common birds in the past have been Vaux swifts; this year none. It brought to mind that when I was a child, the summer evening sky not only at our cabin but even in Portland was filled with nighthawks; by the time I was an adult, we rarely saw them.

When I was growing up, going to any of the lakes in the Cascades following snowmelt meant cascades frogs breeding by the gazillion, and their egg masses and tadpoles. No more. It has been years since I’ve seen a single one. I also did not find

red-legged frogs, tailed frogs or the juvenile form of the pacific giant salamander, common in the past in the places where I looked.

Of all the amphibians I used to see there, only the rough-skinned newts continue to be abundant. I did see something I hadn’t before — honeybees at a high mountain lake far from road or any human-tended hive.

One of my daughters who hiked in and fished with me especially loves wildflowers, and spent quite a bit of time photographing old friends like northern starflower and its more delicate counterpart American starflower, bunchberry, twinflower, bear grass, inside out flower, coral root, wood strawberry, columbine, queen’s cup, penstemon and Indian paintbrush. Because going up in elevation took us back in time, in many places the wild rhododendrons were at their peak.

The whole experience was rejuvenating, the fishing wonderful, but the species missing even away from obvious forest plunder and destruction is sobering.

Sometimes a break from the political landscape, medical issues, any form of social media, even one’s own hearth and home, can be restorative. For me this past weekend was especially so because I was in the part of Oregon that I know best, an area in the Detroit Ranger District of Willamette National Forest near Breitenbush Hot Springs. Thanks to a special Forest Service program designed to better connect people to the public forests, my grandfather built a cabin there the year I was born (1952) and I have been there regularly and for extended periods all my life.

He built the cabin so that his grandchildren might experience the paradise he believed was rapidly being destroyed, and to have some balance to a city life; it did this far beyond his dreams, changing the trajectory of our entire family. Because of it my father became a wildlife biologist and environmentalist rather than the medical doctor he had planned to be, and my generation have all chosen to live in rural places next to creeks or rivers.

There are areas near our cabin that are still what we used to call virgin forest, and have remained relatively undisturbed by human activity. Most of the wildflowers, tree species, vegetation, butterflies and mammals from my grandparents’ days are still abundant.

Missing, however, are most of the amphibians and quite a few of the birds I remember from boyhood or even two years ago. Some birds we always see that



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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

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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.

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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.

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