

THE RECORD

DISASTER PREP

BY DAVE ROBINSON
Special to the Siuslaw News

Classroom lockdown kits

School officials are understandably jumpy these days. School shootings are unspeakably tragic, they get nationwide attention and no school administrator wants to be caught unprepared in the event the unthinkable happens in their school. Consequently, most schools have developed a lockdown procedure which secures each classroom and isolates safe zones in the building.

Some states have even enacted legislation mandating that schools develop a viable lockdown policy and conduct periodic drills, much the same as the fire drills with which we are all familiar.

Schools activate their lockdown plan for a variety of reasons. The primary reason is when the safety of the students is at stake. Another reason is when the police are conducting a drug search, usually with a specially trained dog and they don't want several hundred kids milling about.

Also, if an event is occurring nearby the school, such as some kind of "person with a gun" situation, bank robbery or other incident which could be potentially hazardous to the students, the school will lockdown.

Different schools do lockdowns dif-

ferently. The first step is to secure the students in their classrooms, secure all entrances to the building and block visual access to the rooms. Students are directed to position themselves in an area of the room away from the door. Often the classroom lights are turned off. Students are usually required to remain quiet for the duration of the lockdown.

Lockdowns can last from a few minutes to several hours. Not all classrooms are directly connected to a restroom. Can you see where I'm going with this?

Human nature being what it is, there will always be the kid who just finished off a 44-ounce Big Gulp moments before the lockdown was ordered. Other students may have skipped breakfast, then sometime during first period the school building locked down and now it's two periods after lunch.

To plan for just such a contingency, some schools have purchased lockdown kits.

The kit is usually stored in a five-gallon bucket and contains water pouches, food bars, first aid supplies and many other items considered useful to weather such an incident. Some even include a snap-on toilet seat/lid and toilet bags to provide for the sanitary needs that

would inevitably arise.

(Yes, a roll of tissue is also included.) Ideally each classroom has a kit with enough supplies to meet the needs of several students. One kit I checked out sold for \$70.00 and contained 30 water pouches. It also was equipped with a battery powered radio, a flashlight, and several light sticks, among many other items.

Newly marketed inventions such as door-jamming tools and other security devices are finding their way to classrooms. Some schools are designing classrooms to make it more difficult for intruders to see into the room.

Disaster preparedness doesn't always mean stocking your own pantry. It is regrettable that we find ourselves turning schools into fortresses, but with the right amount of planning and supplies on hand, we can make our schools safer for our kids.

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.

Rhody Society to meet Jan.17

The public is invited to attend the next meeting of the American Rhododendron Society on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

The group will host a talk given by Don Wallace, owner of Singing Tree Gardens in

McKinleyville, Calif.

His topic will be "Creating an arboretum style nursery, that will work well for your personal garden."

The meeting will be held at The Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101.

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New tool allows public to view road conditions in real time

A new online tool will allow the public to view road closures or restrictions due to downed trees, debris, landslides or flooding in near real-time on county-maintained roads.

The tool, called Storm Road Tracker, has been used by Lane County staff to report and track issues for the last year. It was developed by Lane County's Geographic Information Services (GIS) Department in partnership with Road Maintenance staff.

"It has been a great tool for our crews to use in the field," said Lane County Road

Maintenance Manager Orin Schumacher. "It allows us to be more efficient in how we dispatch staff and creates a record we can use to report on damage."

"Our hope is that the public can use the tracker to see what's going on around them, as well as report issues if they don't see them on the map."

The tracker allows users to look for incidents on a County-wide map, or to search by address and road name.

The Storm Road Tracker is available at www.lcmaps.lane.gov/stormroadtracker.

It can also be accessed by

visiting www.lanecounty.org and selecting "Know Your Route" under the "Emergency Preparedness" tab.

"We are still in the development phase," said Melissa Crane, GIS program manager. "We were scheduled to roll this out later this year, but with the new storm approaching we wanted to provide residents with as much information as possible."

"It's also a good opportunity to test the Storm Road Tracker."

Feedback is welcome at lgis@co.lane.or.us. Information from the public will be used to

continue improving the tool.

People using the tracker should remember that it only includes county-maintained roads and issues that have been reported.

To report an issue not on the map, call Public Works at 541-682-6900 during business hours, or the Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch line at 541-682-4150 after hours.

OBITUARIES

FIORITO—David Michael "Botts" Fiorito, 71, died peacefully Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, at his home in Florence while surrounded by family.

Dave was born June 30, 1945, in Batavia, NY, to John and Maria Fiorito. He was raised in LeRoy, NY, and graduated from LeRoy High School in 1963.

He spent a number of years working for manufacturing companies. In 1977, he met his wife, Barbara (Corcimiglia), and they moved to Colorado in 1979. David worked for Public Service Utilities until he retired in 1989.

In 1992, he and his family moved to Florence, where they currently reside.

Dave enjoyed working outside at his home, playing on his computer, photography,

stained glass and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his son Matthew; two grandchildren (Mia and Elena); his brother, John (Shirley) Fiorito; and his sister, Bernadette Fiorito.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Edward.

At his request, no service will be held.

Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

KIMBALL—Charles H. Kimball, 96, of Florence, passed away Dec. 24, 2016.

Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mapleton School Board Wednesday

Mapleton School District will recognize the contributions of its board at its Jan. 11 meeting at Mapleton High School.

Mapleton will join 196 other districts statewide in celebrating the important work its board members do.

According to District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara, the individuals that serve on the board are essential to the fulfillment of the districts mission.

The board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, beginning at 6 p.m.

Parents, students and community members are invited to attend.



Let's Do This!!!

3rd Annual CHILI COOKOFF and BAKE SALE

When: SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st

Where: ELKS LODGE, 1686 12th ST, FLORENCE, OR

Time: 2PM to 4PM. Entry on East side of the Lodge

Open to the public!
\$1.00 charge when you decide to purchase a bowl of chili which counts as a vote (no fees for a small taste of the various chilis), or 6 bowls for \$5.00. Coffee, tea and water will be provided at no cost (You can purchase your favorite soda or alcohol).
You may want to bring your own TUMS!

If you think you have what it takes to win the best chili in Florence, sign up and bring your favorite batch to be judged. All participants must provide a minimum of 18 quarts of chili. The attendees will judge your entry. They get a free taste and then if they decide to buy a bowl, their ticket is placed in your basket. The most tickets win. A vote will decide ties. Prizes awarded for top 3 places.

BAKE SALE
The annual bake sale and auction will coincide with the chili festivities and you will have the chance to buy or bid on some of the best desserts this side of grandma's house. There will also be a silent auction for the most decorated desserts. Yum, yum!!!

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Florence/Central Coast!
Relay for Life teams will receive points for their participation in the event.

For more information please contact:
Bobbi Harris 541 991 1957
Rae Henry 541 999 8624
Harold Kinney 712 242 7336



Live Music provided by Speaker Wave!

Empty Bowls Thank you!



Without the generous support and donations of the following sponsors, restaurants, organizations, artists, students and volunteers, the Empty Bowls 2016 fundraiser to benefit Florence Food Share could not have been possible. We are truly fortunate to live in a community that works together to make our town a better place to live!

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