

Showing support...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Members of Sisters Community Church, VAST, and Young Life spent Sunday morning at Sisters High School cleaning up the entry and posting dozens of notes showing love and support for Sisters High School staff and students in the wake of the tragic death of two students and a 2020 graduate in accidents over the past couple of weeks.

SHAKEOUT: Event promotes disaster preparedness

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Sherman Fire Department is encouraging local residents to participate in the Great Oregon Shakeout drill, set for October 15. Visit www.shakeout.org/oregon/ for information.

But McGowan notes that the Great Oregon Shakeout for Sisters isn't so much about the shaking as it is being prepared for the after-effects of the shaking.

Self-reliance will be critical to get through the immediate and long-term aftermath of a megaquake. Emergency responders will be busy, even if they are not sent to other parts of the state to help quake victims.

What can local citizens do to be prepared for a major emergency such as a catastrophic mega earthquake?

First, recognize the vulnerabilities. In a "full-rip" Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, there is likely to be significant damage to the state's major fuel depot in the St. Johns area of Portland. And re-routing fuel supplies, which are contracted for, won't be a quick or easy proposition. And in a major region-wide emergency, fuel will be allocated first to emergency responders.

Fill your tank — and don't let it get below half-empty. That way you've always got at least some fuel on hand. A couple of safely stored five-gallon gas cans are a good idea, too — treated so that the fuel doesn't go bad. Drop the gas into your tank every few months and get a fresh supply in the cans.

Water is critical to life. Experts recommend storing at least one gallon of water

per person for three days for drinking, cooking and sanitation. (www.ready.gov/water). That's a lot of water in an emergency that lasts for several days or weeks.

Putting up a few flats of commercial bottled water is a good idea, as is filling several camping containers. It's also a very good idea to have a good water purification device in case you are caught somewhere away from your water supply. It's always a good idea to carry one in your hiking pack or your emergency car kit anyway.

The grocery supply network is likely to be severely disrupted in a major earthquake scenario. Most emergency plans call for food supplies for 72 hours — but for an event like a Cascadia quake, you need to be prepared for much longer: Three weeks to a month.

Don't count on the ability to refrigerate food. And don't forget that your pets will need to eat, too — so you need to lay in a backup supply of their food as well.

You'll also need to have the means to cook. Camping stoves are convenient, easy to use and effective.

It's a very good idea to have an emergency backup for vital medications. Just

like the food chain, the supply chain for pharmacies is likely to be disrupted.

Having an alternative source of heat is important if you heat primarily with electricity. A portable gas-powered generator is fine for a while — but in a scenario where fuel supplies are short for an extended period of time, that may not help you.

A wood stove requires nothing but some muscle to create the fuel.

Get a Red Cross solar/crank radio so you won't be completely out of touch on vital announcements/news if the communication net goes down for an extended period.

For some folks, there is an innate, perhaps subconscious, resistance to spending money and effort preparing for something that may never happen. But preparing for "The Big One" also leaves you in great shape to handle smaller emergencies, from winter power outages to a financial crunch that forces you to tap some emergency supplies.

And, for the well-prepared, the confidence that you are ready for anything and in a position to help your family, friends, and neighbors, offers tremendous peace of mind.

BLUEBIRDS: Youth self-motivated to help birds nest

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For home-school projects I'm always thinking of things that we do that could be educational. He quilts and helps me with canning."

Most birds, including bluebirds, don't reuse their old nests, no matter how clean they are. They typically build a new nest for each clutch. This reduces the prevalence of parasites. Mites and lice lay eggs in nest materials, producing a whole batch of young parasites that would have a head start in attacking a new set of nestlings.

The third-grader removes the old nests and then scrubs out the nest box with a vinegar and water solution.

"I've cleaned out eight," he said, "One at my grandmas and two at my house and five at the neighbors."

The neighbors, Petra, and Dwayne Chase, were educated about bluebirds and their nests when Oathes stopped by one day.

Petra said, "Jordan noticed that we had old nests in our bluebird birdhouses. He was well-informed and told us we had to remove the old nests in the spring. Jordan got all the information on how to clean the birdhouses out the right

way by his grandmother Diane, his mom, Shawna, and on websites."

Tolzman said, "We love seeing all the bluebirds in the area and want to provide them with a safe place to nest. I save all my thread from quilting, so we have bags of thread. We usually see some of our thread in the nests every year."

She added, "We had a big swallows nest last year that was full of my colored thread."

One of the challenges for bluebirds is that they're losing habitat, including the standing dead trees, or snags, they depend on for nesting — the same trees often salvaged after fires. You can help them out by putting up nest boxes and providing food in the form of seed feeders and suet cakes.



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Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.




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Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Tina Ontiveros 6:30 p.m. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to BooksInCommonNW.com.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.




OCT 16
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Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Keir Graff 3 p.m. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to BooksInCommonNW.com.



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