



Being ready for disasters important

Oregon is taking steps to plan and prepare for a devastating earthquake and tsunami, and the state wants citizens to do the same. Oregon state agencies recently joined federal, regional, state and local partners to test emergency plans with an earthquake and tsunami exercise, Pacific Peril, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton on the Oregon coast. "The West Coast is at risk for a massive earthquake and tsunami wave," said Rose Gentry, Emergency Operations manager for the Oregon Dept. of Transportation and one of the exercise participants.

"This exercise will allow emergency managers and planners at all levels to work together on strengthening our planning, preparation and response," she said.

Pacific Peril participants were the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, the Dept. of Homeland Security/FEMA, the Dept. of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Navy Third Fleet, the Center for Asymmetric Warfare, the British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program, the states of Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska, utilities, the American Red Cross, county and city governments, and other emergency response agencies.

The exercise tested these agencies' abilities to work together to coordinate response, recovery and repair efforts in a large-scale natural disaster.

The exercise was one of many planning and preparedness initiatives that will occur throughout the Pacific Northwest this spring. These efforts serve as "a great opportunity to promote personal emergency preparedness and encourage Oregonians" to:

- *Get a kit of emergency supplies.
- *Make a plan for what they will do in an emergency.
- *Be informed about what might happen.

For more information, visit one of these Websites: www.oregongeology.com, www.ready.gov, and www.prepare.org.



I.V. EXTREME held its annual competition Saturday, June 17 based at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction. A full day of activities including games and sporting events was conducted by the sponsor, CJ-based Cross Quest Expeditions, 'an adventure and extreme sports ministry existing to boldly pursue and proclaim Jesus Christ.' Entertainment included Pastor Dan Robinson and his daughter Natalie (second photo from top). Abigail Robinson also was among performers. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg)

Campaign planning for library district topic of June 26 meeting in CJ branch

An open meeting with library supporters "to review campaign plans to build support for a real library in Josephine County," and consider how to possibly contribute to the community initiative will be held Monday, June 26.

The public meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Illinois Valley Branch Library on Palmer Street off Hwy. 199 in Downtown Cave Junction.

Due to a lack of available funding, the county has reduced operating hours county-wide. The I.V. Branch now is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The gathering June 26 will be led by Cessa Vichi, director of the county library

Get the lead out per DEQ

Some \$17,600 in penalties have been levied against the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club Inc. by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The fines are for hazardous waste violations related to mismanagement of large accumulations of lead waste debris at the club's facility in Central Point, according to DEQ.

The club has until June 21 to appeal. The penalties stem from a Jan. 19 DEQ hazardous waste inspection of the gun club's facility.

DEQ inspectors discovered several large outdoor piles of sand and bullet debris, remnants of the club's cleanup of its indoor shooting gallery bullet traps. Several of the piles were as high as 3 feet and as long as 12 feet. Overall, the piles contained approximately 17 tons of lead-contaminated debris, said DEQ.

DEQ noted that the club was aware of the dangers of lead poisoning, and even had posted articles on its bulletin board. The club had obtained a bid on how to properly dispose of the lead-containing waste.

When receiving information on the cost, however, the club decided it was too expensive, so it decided to handle the waste on its own, according to DEQ hazardous waste officials working on the case.

By choosing to dispose of the waste on its grounds instead of at a permitted hazardous waste facility, the club exhibited a "reckless lack of regard" for the threat the waste posed to groundwater, wildlife and other elements in the environment, DEQ officials said.

system, with Whitney Lard, Bill and Carolyn Kohn, Joe Momyer, Susan Cohen, and Bill Peterson.

"At the meeting we'll explain what will be happening each month between now and November, how we'll organize to get the work done and how people can contribute," said Vichi.

She listed examples of ways people can help:

*Provide leadership for the new library district by offering to serve on the library board of directors.

*Offer to allow district supporters to list you as a supporter of the Library District Project.

*Participate on the communications team to help get the word out.

*Join the group of "responders" who will be organizing to get answers to citizen questions quickly and accurately during the campaign.

*Work on fund-raising projects to raise the money that will be needed for advertisements, signs, brochures and media coverage.

*Serve on the Speakers Bureau, giving talks to community groups.


*Participate in a voters registration drive, and the get-out-the-vote effort.

Help on the Community Voice Team that will be listening to voters and providing insight to the communications team.

*Contribute graphic art support for campaign materials.

"If your talent is Website management or content development, those also would be helpful," said Vichi. "Or," she added, "if you'd simply like to fill in wherever a need arises, that would be great also."

For more information contact Vichi at 592-3291, or Lard at 218-5656.



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