

CERT: Instructors hope to have nearly 30 teen members by June

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University of Oregon, to apply for a RARE intern for her teen CERT effort. Nick Sund, a RARE volunteer stationed in Brown's office, started as emergency services coordinator in October.

Teaching CERT

Goldsmith and Sund took training to become certified CERT instructors. They recently started taking groups of eight to 12 students at Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside high schools through lessons in extinguishing small fires, light search and rescue, assisting injured people, triage, helping emergency responders, identifying hazards, reducing fire hazards and helping reduce survivor stress.

On Thursday, Sund and Goldsmith taught students at WHS how to extricate people pinned under heavy objects using leverage, carrying techniques and how to build stretchers for victims using classroom supplies and furniture.

"First responders, they get there after a little bit, but we're just normal people who happen to be there at the time it happens," said sophomore Nathan Ruscheinsky. "We're just trying to help as much as we can until they get there."

First comes gathering information about the dangers



CERT instructors Jeremy Goldsmith, left, and Nick Sund, right, demonstrate a chair lift during the Community Emergency Response Team certification class at Warrenton High School Thursday. Sabrina Whitaker, a senior, acted as the person in need.

in your surroundings, said WHS junior Sabrina Whitaker, mentioning the beams over her head in the aging cafeteria she's been told could likely fall down in a major earthquake.

While the training teaches her self-reliance and how to help others, said Whitaker, it will also help as she studies at Clatsop Community College

to become a nurse. And that sort of pragmatism wasn't exclusive to her.

Half of Astoria's CERT trainees are also firefighter trainees with the Lewis and Clark Rural Fire Protection District. On Tuesday, they learned from Astoria firefighters how to properly handle a fire extinguisher and put out flames using P.A.S.S. tech-

nique (pull the pin; aim at the base of the fire; squeeze; and spray).

"It gives helpful background," said senior Brandon Hall of the training, which included the demonstration and a lecture on different types of fires. And it helps his resume, added Hall, as he tries to become a firefighter after high school.

Next steps

Sund and Goldsmith hope to have nearly 30 teen CERT members between Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside certified by the end of May, training Knapapa team CERT members in the spring. They'll send each group through a final exam and a disaster simulation before a ceremony to

receive their CERT training certificates.

"They're a great resource for their high school," said Sund, adding that in Lincoln County, teen CERT members are fully integrated into the school district's emergency plan. "It would be great to see schools plan for their use in an emergency."

WHS Principal Rod Heyen agreed. But whether it's CERT training or any other program, he said, it comes down to staffing. Other schools, he added, weave the CERT training into the curriculum of an existing teacher also certified to train.

"Unfortunately, I don't have anybody on my 15-man team here at the high school who can pull it off," said Heyen.

AHS Principal Lynn Jackson said he could see CERT training integrated into a science course, adding that for now, schools are just seeing how the training goes.

At this point, said Brown, the goal is to show local high schools the value in CERT training. In Dallas (Ore.) School District, she said, teen CERT teams are tasked with restocking first aid kits; and in Polk County, they work alongside their adult counterparts.

"It could look a lot of different ways," she said. "At the end of the day, they'll have 10 to 15 more people who can help when a crisis strikes."



Owain Gossett, center, leads a group of students as they lift Marcus Giles using a blanket as part of the Community Emergency Response Team certification class at Warrenton High School Thursday.



Students prepare to use a blanket to lift Marcus Giles, a sophomore, as part of the Community Emergency Response Team certification class at Warrenton High School Thursday.



Carter Tucker, a freshman at Astoria High School extinguishes a fire during a CERT class at Astoria High School Tuesday.

Gardner: 'I'm just doing what I'm supposed to be doing ...'

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Marine Resource Committee and the executive board of American Rivers, a national conservation group.

At a ceremony conducted in his honor by Native American students at Naselle Youth Camp in November 2013, Gardner said, "I'm just

doing what I'm supposed to be doing, to help within the community, to help honor my ancestors, to help honor the Creator. ... There are so many of the youths here, that all they need is for one person to believe in them and that's all it takes to turn them around. Which takes so little of our time to actually do. But to be

able to look back and realize that you have touched someone is very humbling."

Wrapping up his tribal council service, Gardner said, "Hayu masi (many thanks) for your continued support as I take this next journey in my life."

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced when available.

Plan: Master plan committee didn't discuss how project would be financed

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But before any construction can begin, at least \$3.465 million would be needed to make highway improvements; develop an internal street network; build storm, sewer and water systems; lay out pedestrian pathways through Haystack Heights and beginning at the Warren Way-Hemlock Street intersection; and install fiber optic cable, natural gas and electrical power.

Highway improvements, at an estimated \$1.25 million to \$2.17 million, would include

two intersections and two turn lanes at the site, along with drainage, lighting and other improvements. A possible pedestrian crossing with a refuge and warning lights could add another \$250,000 to the cost.

Barnes said the master plan committee didn't discuss how the project would be financed. "There is no financing plan at this time," he said.

Although some of the highway requirements are because of the potential school on the property, there wouldn't be a "big difference" in what the Oregon Department of

Transportation would require if the school isn't built there, Barnes said.

When asked if the master plan committee discussed a "Plan B" if the school wasn't built on the 2.1 acres reserved for it, Barnes said the committee didn't discuss it.

Mayor Sam Steidel, however, didn't think there would be much change in the configuration of the buildings.

"If a school doesn't happen, it doesn't mean that other facilities would go into that area," Steidel said. "It's a schematic; it can easily be changed."

Birds: Animal advocates worry about pets, push for responsible use of fireworks

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Representatives of the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Humane Society of the United States and the Oregon Humane Society all urged committee members to support the legislation, though they mentioned some concerns.

Animal advocates said that fireworks must be used responsibly because they can frighten pets, while the Oregon Farm Bureau noted there are only two wholesale fireworks dealers who can sell to farmers and other property owners in the state.

During the Feb. 3 hearing,

the committee also moved House Bill 2475, which would authorize penalties of up to \$100 for veterinarians who commit minor infractions, to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

The fines would be the equivalent of a "traffic ticket" for minor violations, such as failing to notify regulators of an address change, that would not reflect negatively on a veterinarian's disciplinary record, said Lori Makinen, director of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

The committee held a hear-

ing on another bill — House Bill 2474 — that would require the registration and regulation of veterinary facilities to ensure they meet state standards.

Currently, state regulators only have authority over veterinarians, not facilities, which could create problems if substandard conditions were found at a clinic owned by a corporation or nonveterinarian, said Makinen.

However, the committee held off on referring the bill to the House floor pending further discussion and possible amendments.

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