

ShakeOut: Simulation will last between 15 to 20 minutes

Continued from Page 1A

care of themselves. I think the effort of this event is to tell people how to take care of themselves.”

The emergency preparedness exercise is part of the annual Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills, a worldwide event urging schools, businesses, governments, organizations, families and individuals to improve their disaster plans.

“Our implementation of it is really focused on the needs of Astoria and trying to encourage Astorians — both government and the citizens of Astoria — to look at their preparedness,” Police Chief and Assistant City Manager Brad Johnston said.

Disaster drill

On Thursday morning, city personnel will react as if it is the real deal at City Hall. They will, as emergency management agencies recommend, “drop, cover and hold on” — that is, hit the ground, take cover beneath a sturdy desk or table and hold onto it for about three minutes. In an earthquake, peo-



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state Office of Emergency Management’s geologic hazard coordinator

ple would stay put until the quaking stops.

City staff will then safely exit City Hall and rendezvous at a parking lot north of the building. They will be asked to stay away from the building because, when Cascadia hits, it could be falling apart, Finance Director Susan Brooks said.

Once outside, department

heads will practice counting their employees; after an earthquake, they would be responsible for determining who left the building, who is safe and who may still be inside.

“If there are other people in the building, we’ll ask them to play along,” said Johnston, who registered 400 participants in the ShakeOut,

covering the roughly 100 city employees and members of the public who may be at City Hall. Astoria’s police and fire departments will also participate in the ShakeOut, Johnston said.

The whole simulation will likely last between 15 and 20 minutes, Brooks said.

“It’s one of those things where, unless you practice

your plans, your plans are nothing. They’re just something that sits on the shelf,” Johnston said. “So this is a good time to evaluate our ability to get out of the building, get people to think about it at least once a year and ensuring we’re prepared.”

Across Youngs Bay, the Warrenton police and fire departments will help out students and staff at Warrenton Grade School, Warrenton City Recorder Linda Engbretson said in an email. And Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman will post an educational message on the police department’s Facebook page.

Taking stock

As of this week, more than 39.5 million participants had been registered for the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills, including more than 500,000 participants registered for the Great Oregon ShakeOut and more than 1,500 participants in Clatsop County.

Last year, the Great Oregon ShakeOut galvanized about 398,000 participants. Althea Rizzo, the state Office of Emergency Management’s geologic hazard coordinator,

said the increasing media interest in Cascadia — not least Oregon Public Broadcasting’s “Unprepared” news series and The New Yorker’s July 2015 article “The Really Big One” — helps explain the rapid rise in participants. Also, 2015 marks the Great Oregon ShakeOut’s fourth year, so more people know about it, she said.

Johnston encourages the public to participate in the ShakeOut — both the “drop, cover and hold on” part and memorizing the evacuation routes and assembly points nearest their homes, workplaces and any area where they spend a lot of time.

Families should also take stock of their emergency supplies. After a megaquake, coastal residents may be cut off from outside help and should strive to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks, Rizzo said.

“It gives people an opportunity to think through what they would do in an emergency,” she said, “because when it hits the fan, you don’t have time to think. You have to have that (preparedness) in your muscle memory.”

Auction: Sealed bids are due to the broker by Nov. 18

Continued from Page 1A

The M&N Building, built in 1924 and named for Mary C. Flavel — the captain’s wife — and daughter, Nellie, has had tenants such as Pacific Power and Sears.

A price reduction to about \$22 a square foot comes as prime commercial property in a resurgent downtown can go for more than \$75 a square foot. The low price reflects the difficulty of redeveloping the deteriorating property, which is made up of five storefronts and a full basement in a historic district.

A new owner would have to spend a considerable



Submitted Photo

The M&N Building is up for auction. The 8,125-square-foot building houses five storefronts and a full basement.

amount of money to renovate the building. Demolishing the property and starting over would likely require

approval from the city’s Historic Landmarks Commission.

“The question is can you

renovate it and not spend so much where you’re having to charge above what the current market rate is for

rent?” said Kevin Cronin, the city’s community development director. “And so that’s the trick.”

Peter Tadei, a real estate broker active in the downtown commercial property market, called \$22 a square foot a “bottom basement price.”

The challenge for prospective buyers, he said, is similar to the old Waldorf Hotel on Duane Street next to City Hall, which has been spared from demolition but sits vacant because of the high cost of renovating the historic building.

“You can’t give the building away because of what it costs to renovate it and to

make it pencil out,” Tadei said of the old hotel. “That’s why nobody has jumped on that. Same thing.

“And yet they don’t want you tear it down. So what do you do?”

The M&N Building is listed for auction at a published reserve price of \$180,000, which, according to Realty Marketing/Northwest, means that if the bidding reaches or exceeds that price the Flavel conservator is committed to sell to the highest bidder. If the bidding falls short of that price, the conservator can accept, counter or reject the highest bid.

Sealed bids are due to the broker by Nov. 18.

Wauna Credit Union Fundraiser Donates To Clatsop Animal Assistance



(L to R) Marcy Dunning, Rob Watson, Jerri Yamasaki, Jen Ashton, Robert Blumberg, Marc Silva, Debi Smiley.

Wauna Credit Union proudly presented a check to Clatsop Animal Assistance (CAA) on Monday, September 28th. The funds were raised by Wauna Credit Union staff and members, and presented to CAA President Marcy Dunning, shelter volunteers, and Animal Control Officer Rob Watson.

The donation, totaling \$2953.83 came from a variety of fundraising efforts by Credit Union staff, including “\$5 Jeans Days” every Friday, a bake sale, automatic payroll deductions, and a raffle for a weekend at a beach house in Ocean Park, which was donated through Paulson Printing in St Helens, a regular printer for the Credit Union for many years.

“We appreciate this so much”, said CAA president Marcy Dunning. “It’s a lot of money to benefit the shelter.”

CAA provides additional resources to care for sick and injured animals that come

to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. Many of the animals they help would otherwise be euthanized. They also provide food, supplies, maintain a website (dogsncats.com) and social media pages to aid in adoption. Their support allows a county animal shelter to be a “low-kill” shelter.

Wauna Credit Union CEO Robert Blumberg presented the check, along with COO Debi Smiley, and Warrenton Branch Manager Marc Silva. Blumberg stated, “We humans have a responsibility for the welfare of our animal friends as well as all the other animals in the animal kingdom.”

Wauna Credit Union staff votes quarterly to designate a charity or non-profit organization to support. They chose the Columbia County Humane Society for the first quarter of the year, and just completed a fundraiser to support wildfire victims and emergency support staff of the NW Wildfires (Red Cross).

