



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Anthony Kenne, chief of planning and force readiness with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, speaks to members of the Coast Guard to go over available shelter and supplies during a tsunami drill Monday.

## Senior center back in swing of things

Long-awaited building upgrade wraps up

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Senior Center officially reopened on Exchange Street today after a two-year tenancy at the city's Yacht Club, but the day before, a handful of seniors had already made the freshly renovated center a part of their routines once again.

While about half a dozen women showed up to line dance in the new dance hall, Norm Mullins, of Astoria, broke in the pool room. The sounds of country pop blended with the clacking of billiard balls, and both were drowned out now and then by the high-pitched buzzing of electric drills as workmen put the final touches on the overhaul.

Standing near the pool table, cue stick in hand, Mullins, a senior center member for about five years, rendered his verdict on the improvements: "I love it," he said, laughing. "A lot better than it was the last time."

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## Any fort in the storm

Quake, tsunami drill tests Coast Guard corps

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

When the men and women of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River came to work Monday morning, they were told they had 20 minutes to reach Fort Clatsop.

In a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, 20 minutes is about all the time residents would get to find higher ground.

For the evacuation drill, about 100 members left their posts near the Astoria Regional Airport and ran 1.4 miles to the fort in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, where the Coast Guard would set up an incident command center in an actual emergency.

Anthony Kenne, chief of planning and force readiness with the Coast Guard, said the guard was searching for a location that was relatively close, out of the tsunami zone and had existing infrastructure.

The evacuation drill was staged the day before the 316th anniversary of what scientists believe was the last large Cascadia earthquake and tsunami on Jan. 26, 1700.

The Coast Guard sector sits at just 11 feet above sea level. In a Cascadia event, the sector could drop to 1 foot above sea level. It could be underwater within 20 minutes.

"We were looking for a good evacuation site. Something that was high ground, close proximity to the sector," Kenne said.

Red stickers were placed on those who did not make it to Fort Clatsop on time, which was almost half of the group. Kenne warned the group that if they are unable to reach the fort, they must turn off the route and head toward other high ground on nearby farmland. From there, it could take a day before reaching the fort.

"Head to those first if you know it's going to take longer than 20 minutes," Kenne told the group.

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Anthony Kenne speaks to members of the Coast Guard about places to find high ground during an earthquake and tsunami drill Monday.



Safety and survival equipment are shown in the back of a truck during a tsunami drill.

## A totem for a tribe

Local arts grant to pay for statue of Clatsop tribesman

By NANCY McCARTHY  
For EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — A 10-foot tall welcoming pole in the figure of a Clatsop tribesman may soon be installed in NeCus' Park at the former Cannon Beach Elementary School playground.

The city's arts advisory committee has recommended that its annual \$10,000 grant for public art be spent on the statue, to be carved from a cedar pole. Before the pole is formally commissioned, however, it must be approved by the city's design review board, which will consider it in February. City Manager Brant Kucera will have the final say about whether the statue should be purchased.

The arts committee approved the pole, proposed by the city's Palette Group, during a meeting this month.

The pole will be carved by Quinalt, Washington, artist Guy Capoeman, who has carved other poles and canoes. Some of Capoeman's relatives belong to the Clatsop, Nehalem and Tillamook tribes, according to Dick Basch, vice chairman of the Clatsop-Nehalem Tribe.

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## Lady Gulls are 'tough and together'

Teamwork keeps girls pressing toward goals

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

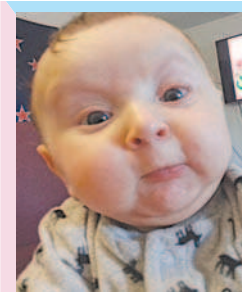
SEASIDE — What do Seaside's Lady Gulls bring to the table besides one of the top 4A basketball programs in the state and a respectable record heading into Cowapa League play? Eleven dedicated student-athletes who offer each other support and companionship as they strive to meet personal goals in each facet of life, set good examples for younger players and deliver their best behavior on and off the court.



Jeff Ter Har/For EO Media Group

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The Gulls share camaraderie on and off the court.



Enter your baby in The Daily Astorian's Cutest Baby Contest for 2015

If your baby was born between Jan 1st & Dec 31st of 2015, you can submit your newborn's picture either via email at [classifieds@dailyastorian.com](mailto:classifieds@dailyastorian.com) or drop by one of our offices in Astoria or Seaside and we can scan in the photo for you.

Deadline to enter is Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm. Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 29th.

