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ONE DOLLAR



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria resident Bill Lind listens to speakers during the Community Emergency Preparedness Forum Tuesday at the Liberty Theater.

A NUDGE TOWARD PREPAREDNESS

Forum a reminder of natural and man-made risks

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

How does a forum focused on the many ways North Coast residents can lose their lives, loved ones and property to natural and man-made disasters strike a positive note without downplaying the dangers? By making it about preparedness.

The city of Astoria's Community Emergency Preparedness Forum, held Tuesday evening at the Liberty Theater, ran the gamut of hazards facing the region, from floods and forest fires to the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. The event fulfilled this year's City Council goal of increasing emergency preparedness efforts.

And the discussion circled back, again and again, to the theme of preparedness, both personal and communal.

In the case of the "big one" — the Cascadia megaquake for which the Pacific Northwest is overdue and under-prepared — that theme resonates for a special reason:

The city's emergency responders, including the police and fire departments, may not be able to help or rescue anyone immediately after the event — a fact Police Chief Brad Johnston and Fire Chief Ted Ames acknowledged at a recent City Council meeting. The officials organized the forum.

But there are steps individuals can take to prepare, said Althea Rizzo, geologic hazards program manager at Oregon Emergency Management. And it's possible that many folks have started preparing without even realizing it.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Coastal Natural Hazards Specialist Patrick Corcoran, associate professor at Oregon State University, presents information about preparing for future natural disasters during the Community Emergency Preparedness Forum Tuesday at the Liberty Theater.

Anyone who goes camping, hunting and fishing, for example, may already have some of the basic post-Cascadia supplies.

"If you have camping equipment, you probably have everything you need to survive for a few weeks," she said.

The same goes for people who tend a garden and talk to their neighbors. When food supply routes are cut off and survival demands the pooling of resources, having a local food source and a reliable support group will pay off.

"All of these things build resilience, and all of them make it much easier for you to

get prepared," she said.

Water and fire

Sometimes it's easy to forget that Cascadia, given how much attention it receives, is not the only hazard confronting the North Coast.

"While that is the largest thing we face, it is not the thing most likely to affect us," said Johnston, who emceed the event. "Next year, we will have a winter storm issue. We know that. We did last year, we will next year, we will the year after that."

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Developer buys The Ship Inn

Hollander plans bigger investment in Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A Bellingham, Washington, developer who hopes to bring a Marriott Hotel to Astoria has purchased The Ship Inn, a popular riverfront pub and fish and chips restaurant.

Mark Hollander bought the building off Second Street from owner Jill Stokeld for \$545,000.

Stokeld, who has been trying to sell her restaurant for more than a decade, is now leasing the space from Hollander for at least another year.

"She still wants to run the business, so that's great," Hollander said. "I'm just kind of gearing up to invest in Astoria."

Hollander, who unsuccessfully bid to operate the Astoria Riverwalk Inn, is studying the feasibility of locating a Marriott Hotel on a strip of land owned by the Port of Astoria underneath the Astoria Bridge. More than six months after it was approved by the Port Commission, the lease between Hollander and the Port has still not been finalized.

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Lobbying, campaign money open doors

Lack of disclosure makes tracking influence difficult

Second of two parts.

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The day after the primary election in May, Gov. Kate Brown stepped up to the podium at the opening of a software company's new office in northwest Portland.

The company, Vitu, operates an electronic vehicle titling and registration system in California and last year won a state contract to expand into Oregon. That was exciting news for Brown, who joined executives from Vitu's parent company Motor Vehicle Software Corp. to celebrate the office opening.

"I am so pleased to be here today to help open Vitu here in the city of Portland," Brown said. "Their very innovative tools to

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Lobbying our state officials

Holding students to high expectations

Every Wednesday and Friday for the next couple of weeks, The Daily Astorian features an area teacher as we head toward graduation and summer break.

Virginia Larsson

Astoria Middle and High schools, mathematics, seventh through 12th grade

Why did you become a teacher and what was your biggest surprise?

I became a teacher because I believe education is one of the most reliable ways to positively change people's lives. Being a teacher is a complex job, you are not just an instructor or conduit for imparting knowledge, you

are a coach, a substitute parent, a role model, a disciplinarian, a nurturer, a counselor.

I have learned that teaching focuses less on the content being taught than the students being taught. It helps to be an expert in your subject area, but being a teacher is much about building relationships. A good teacher cares about her students, recognizes when a student is having a bad day or needs some encouragement and addresses the problem to help the student refocus on the material. While holding students to high expectations, I also recognize that occasionally life gets in the way of homework and that studying sometimes takes a back seat to family obligations.



Teachers Talk About Teaching

Therefore, I offer students second chances when warranted and take time out of my own schedule to help students catch up.

What part of the job do you enjoy most?

Every day is unique and different. Each school year brings new people into your life. Each unit and lesson brings new perspectives. Each failure, when looked at formatively, can help you solve new problems. Each success, when used reflectively, can be even greater the next

time. By far the largest reward is the interaction with students. The joy I see in their eyes/faces the instant when students have an "aha" moment and the opportunity to tell parents how wonderful their children are.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Students do not all learn in the same way or in the same time frame. One of the greatest challenges is developing creative lessons that motivate and



Virginia Larsson

reach the cognitive and motivational diversity in the classroom. Some students get a concept right away and may easily get bored, while others need more time to develop and nurture their learning. Keeping the appropriate balance is a challenge.

— Edward Stratton

