

IN BRIEF

Astoria to appeal state ruling on hotel project

The Astoria City Council voted unanimously on Wednesday to appeal a state ruling on a permit extension for a riverfront hotel project.

The state Land Use Board of Appeals in September reversed a decision by the City Council to deny a one-year extension on building permits for a Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Hollander Hospitality wants to build the four-story, 66-room hotel at the base of Second Street. The company cited economic conditions during the coronavirus pandemic as the reason for seeking the extension, but the city pointed out that the company had ample time before the pandemic to make progress.

"We sought out legal guidance on our case and we continue to believe that the city's prerogative to interpret its own code reasonably ought to be upheld, and so we've decided to appeal the LUBA ruling," Mayor Bruce Jones said after the vote to go to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Seaside woman dies after Highway 26 crash

A Seaside woman died in a crash involving two vehicles on U.S. Highway 26 on Sunday afternoon.

Lisa Lawson, 68, who was driving a Kia Soul, died at the scene near milepost 48 near Manning. Her passenger, a Seaside resident, was injured and taken to a local hospital.

The other vehicle, a GMC Sierra, was traveling eastbound, veered into the oncoming lane and slammed into the Lawsons' westbound vehicle, according to Oregon State Police. The driver and his passenger — two Beaverton residents — also went to a local hospital.

The incident closed down the highway for about four hours, police said.

County seeks applications for Planning Commission

Clatsop County is looking to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission, the body that allows citizens to weigh in on issues related to local land use and development.

Right now, the commission does not have anyone from District No. 1 or the Elsie-Jewell and Seaside rural planning areas.

Members meet once a month at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday.

People can pick up application forms at the county manager's office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, in Astoria or find them at <https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/county/page/committee-vacancies>

Applications are due Nov. 15. The county Board of Commissioners expects to appoint someone early next year.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Oct. 17, 2021

SOLBERG, Raymond, 88, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

STARR, Karl D., 71, of Grays River, Washington, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 16, 2021

ANDERSON, Daniel James, 38, of Molalla, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 15, 2021

DEUTSCH, Douglas Patrick, 62, of Seaside,

died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 11, 2021

NEWTON, Suzanne, 56, of Middletown, Delaware, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 7, 2021

CAMPBELL, Catherine, 77, of Arch Cape, died in Arch Cape. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 4, 2021

McGRATH, Don, 73, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.



HEADED TO DRY DOCK

TOP: Workers prepare the Lightship Columbia for its journey to Portland for maintenance work. RIGHT: A worker cuts a section of the tugboat to fit the hull of the ship for the journey.

Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian



The Great ShakeOut shows disaster preparedness goes beyond pandemics

By GARY WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Amid a pandemic that has left over 4.9 million people dead worldwide, dozens of nations are taking time out Thursday to prepare for another mass killer: earthquakes.

The Great ShakeOut is a global earthquake drill at 10:21 a.m. More than 25 million people — including 14.1 million Americans — simultaneously practice the first steps of surviving an earthquake:

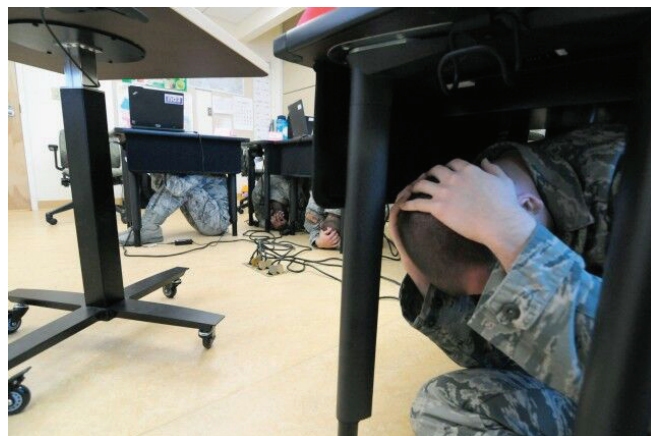
- Drop onto your hands and knees
- Cover your head and neck
- Crawl to a sturdy desk or table nearby
- Hold on until the shaking stops

About 500,000 Oregonians signed up to take part this year, according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

"Understanding what to do in the first few moments after a disaster can mean the difference between being a survivor and a victim," Andrew Phelps, the Office of Emergency Management director, said in a statement released before the event.

One of the few upsidings of the COVID-19 pandemic is it has made people around the world more attuned to a proactive culture of preparedness.

International organizers say they are aware of the extra challenges of thinking about and preparing for earthquakes amid the natu-



The Great ShakeOut is a reminder to prepare for an earthquake or other natural disaster.

ral disaster of coronavirus nearing its two-year mark in December.

"While COVID-19 has brought many uncertainties and challenges, one thing's for sure, ShakeOut is still happening," said an announcement.

The drill is a reminder in Oregon of a possible Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake on a 680-mile rift in the Pacific Ocean running from British Columbia to Northern California.

The 9.0 earthquake could kill up to 10,000 people in Oregon — with half of the casualties dying in tsunamis that would inundate the coast, according to state studies.

Up to 25,000 could die from Vancouver, Canada, to Fort Bragg, California, according to the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup, a nonprofit that includes governments, businesses, communities and other groups working on a regionwide study of disaster recovery.

would be the site of airlifts of supplies and emergency response crews that would then be flown by helicopter to help victims to the west.

The Cascadia quake would likely leave large areas isolated for weeks, while repairs would last for several years. The official state price tag for repair and recovery is \$40 billion.

The magnitude of an Oregon earthquake threat is a relatively recent discovery.

Beginning in the 1980s, geological surveys, Native American oral traditions and meticulous Japanese tidal records led to an estimate the last 9.0 earthquake occurred in January 1700.

Subsequent studies of the deep rift indicate there have been up to 41 major earthquakes along the zone, spread out at variable intervals, but averaging about one every 500 years.

With geological time sequences measured in centuries and decades instead of hours and minutes, the 321 years since the 1700 earthquake puts Oregon today within the parameters of the next earthquake.

The state is aiming to get every resident to create an emergency plan, including gathering two weeks worth of water, food, medicines and other necessities. Not only will this help in the event of an earthquake, but also storms, floods and other natural disasters.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

• James Lee Ogier, 25, of Astoria, was arrested on Sunday at Grand Avenue and 34th Street for three counts of burglary in the first degree, 10 counts of burglary in the second degree, four counts of theft in the first degree, 12 counts of being a felon in possession of a weapon, forgery in the first degree and criminal mischief in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Most school staff in county vaccinated by deadline

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

Most school staff in Clatsop County got vaccinated against the coronavirus by the state deadline.

Gov. Kate Brown ordered teachers and other school staff to be vaccinated by Monday in an attempt to keep schools open during the pandemic.

At a news conference Wednesday morning, school district superintendents said the losses of staff due to the state mandate were minimal.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said 94% of his staff got vaccinated. The school district lost three employees. The remaining unvaccinated employees received medical or religious exemptions.

THE OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORTED 12 NEW VIRUS CASES FOR THE COUNTY ON WEDNESDAY, 13 NEW VIRUS CASES ON TUESDAY AND 12 NEW VIRUS CASES OVER THE WEEKEND.

"It had no impact on the day-to-day working of kids coming to school and being educated," Hoppes said. "We were able to plan appropriately for that."

Superintendent Tom Rogozinski, of Warrenton, and Superintendent Susan Penrod, of Seaside, said 93% of their staffs got vaccinated, while losing one employee each. The remaining unvaccinated employees received medical or religious exemptions, they said.

Knappa Superintendent Bill Fritz said 95% of his staff got vaccinated. One employee was placed on leave, he said, but the school district did not terminate anybody.

Jewell Superintendent

Steve Phillips said staff in his district reached a vaccination rate just shy of 90%, but they lost just one employee.

"It's no fun, but it didn't really affect kids," Phillips said.

The Oregon Health Authority, meanwhile, reported 12 new virus cases for the county on Wednesday, 13 new virus cases on Tuesday and 12 new virus cases over the weekend. Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,432 virus cases and 27 deaths as of Wednesday.

the Astorian

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