



INSIDE

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Seaside care home under corrective action plan

Avamere restricting new admissions

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

Avamere at Seaside is restricting admissions after a state relicensure survey found that a lack of effective administrative oversight at the care home undermined the quality of care and posed a risk of harm to residents.

The routine survey, conducted from June 27 through June 30, turned up multiple failures to follow state rules.

The care home on S. Roosevelt Drive signed a letter of agreement with the state Department of Human Services that requires Avamere to follow a corrective action plan. The 60-day plan ends Aug. 29.

Avamere agreed to “not admit any new residents until further notice,” the letter said.

An outside registered nurse consultant, approved by the Department of Human Services, has been brought in to review and evaluate systems, procedures and practices and provide recommendations and staff training, the letter said.

The Astorian obtained the survey findings and other documentation through the state’s public records law.

The survey coincided with a coronavirus outbreak at the care home that led to 14 virus cases and one death, according to a recent Oregon Health Authority outbreak report.

“As an organization we voluntarily decided to not admit new residents to Avamere at Seaside memory care at this time,” Thomas Cloutier, the chief marketing officer at Avamere’s Wilsonville-based headquarters, wrote in a statement. “We are continuing to partner with the state of Oregon to develop a staffing plan that will allow us

to provide quality care to our seniors. We will open our memory care to move-ins in the near future.

“I want to thank our hardworking team members at the community and home office who have worked around the clock for the health and safety of our seniors. Avamere Communities has a long history in the state of Oregon of the best-in-class clinical systems and outcomes.”

Resident monitoring
The survey, which largely focused on a sample of residents, found the care home’s failure to comply with state administrative rules for assisted living and residential care facilities “placed residents at potential harm or risk of harm,” the letter of agreement said.

THE ROUTINE SURVEY TURNED UP MULTIPLE FAILURES TO FOLLOW STATE RULES.

Avamere could not show evidence that the facility had properly monitored and evaluated residents as their conditions changed, or that staff had adequately intervened when the change was for the worse.

One resident was admitted on April 7 weighing 152.6 pounds. By June 29, the resident weighed 131.8 pounds. This weight loss, the survey said, is “considered severe” — the kind of change that requires an assessment by a registered nurse, the survey noted.

“There was no documented evidence an RN completed an assessment of the weight loss,” the survey said. “The severe, continued weight loss represented a serious risk to the health, safety and welfare of the resident.”

For this resident, Avamere could not “provide documentation that the ongoing weight loss was evaluated, reported to the physician or that additional interventions had been

See Avamere, Page A6



Lydia Ely/The Astorian
Tsunami hazard zones are marked in Cannon Beach.

Researchers examine impact of Cascadia disaster on coastal infrastructure

Study by experts at Oregon State University

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

Researchers have analyzed communities along the Oregon Coast to predict the resiliency of infrastructure and length of recovery following an earthquake and tsunami in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

The study, done by researchers at Oregon State University, looked into 18 communities along the coast from Astoria to Brookings. The work explored the connectivity in developing a model that forecasts the impacts, primarily on transportation networks such as roads and bridges.

The Astoria and Warrenton region — grouped together for the study — yielded encouraging results, said Dan Cox, a professor of civil and construction engineering at Oregon State who was involved in the research.

“It came out to be one of the best in terms of having multiple avenues to go,” Cox said. “That was the good news from Astoria’s point of view — not saying it’s not going to have a lot to do after the event, but relative to some of the other coastal cities, our studies show that Astoria is actually in better shape than some of the other neighboring cities.”

The Cascadia Subduction Zone, extending offshore from British Columbia to Northern California, hasn’t produced an earthquake since 1700 and is building up pressure where the Juan de Fuca plate is sliding underneath the North American plate.

According to a statement by Oregon State, some studies predict a 7% to 11% probability of a major earthquake — “a full-margin rupture” — in the Cascadia

See Cascadia, Page A6

ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY OREGON STATE, SOME STUDIES PREDICT A 7% TO 11% PROBABILITY OF A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE — ‘A FULL-MARGIN RUPTURE’ — IN THE CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS.

Hamlet nonprofit looks to utilize old schoolhouse



A nonprofit wants to renovate an old Necanicum schoolhouse.

Structure in need of major upkeep

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

After watching a presentation on the potential fallout from the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami, John Benson and several other residents of Hamlet, a rural community alongside U.S. Highway 26, sought to advance disaster preparedness.

“A bunch of us got together — ‘Hey, we need to get on this,’” Benson recalls.

The group started a nonprofit



— Friends of Hamlet Fire Protection District — and ideas began to take shape. But as one particular project gained focus, Benson and his team saw an opportunity to fill multiple needs within the community at once through the refurbishment an old Necanicum schoolhouse.

After some much-needed work, Benson envisions the red, one-room building becoming a train-

ing and meeting space for the fire district, an emergency shelter and disaster relief center and a community gathering place.

“Back in the day, there were weddings that took place there, reunions, family gatherings. They had dances at least once a month and dinners,” he said. “We’re not exactly sure how it’s going to be colored, but we do want more of a community feeling and center going on there. Maybe movies.”

See Schoolhouse, Page A6

