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a catastrophic earthquake and its potential consequences. The Japan quake served as a wake-up call to many vulnerable communities," said Pat Kirby, Peace Harbor facilities manager. "The State of Oregon started to press the need for earthquake resilience, and money started becoming available through grants for various projects, including seismic upgrades. We saw the need to make sure that medical service would be available to our

community in a Cascadia event." Peace Harbor was awarded a grant for \$2.5 million for the project through the state's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program, which targets both schools and first-responder buildings, including hospitals, 9-1-1 centers and fire and police stations. More than eight years ago, the hospital began working with the Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries to develop evacuation and inundation zone maps, which allowed Peace Harbor to

apply for the grant. The construction component of the upgrade was done by Seattle-based contractor Lease Crutcher Lewis, which finished Peace Harbor's year-long seismic upgrades on budget and on time. The project included retrofitting footings in 47 locations within the hospital and placing new wall anchors in more than 50 locations. The grant also covered upgrades to mechanical, plumbing and electric systems. The Cascadia Subduction

Zone is a 600-mile fault line just off the Pacific coastline, extending from northern California to British Columbia. Oregon has the potential for a 9.0+ magnitude earthquake and a resulting tsunami of up to 100 feet high. Kirby noted that experts have determined that Peace Harbor lies outside the tsunami zone, even under a worst-case scenario. Next, he said Peace Harbor will research options for setting up automated water-line shutoffs and backup generator start-ups through ShakeAlert,

an earthquake early-warning system. Coincidentally, the State of Oregon purposefully chose this week's Japan earthquake anniversary date for the launch of ShakeAlert. The system can send alerts seconds ahead of shaking to area residents, as well as utilities, schools, hospitals and other critical service providers. For more information, visit www.shakealert.org. For more information about PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, visit www.peacehealth.org.

PAC from page 1A

PAC meetings as the city council's representative, tasking her with conveying the wishes of the council regarding the purchase, placement and expansion of the art collection owned, displayed and maintained by the city. She joined the meeting in progress and briefly introduced herself to committee members. "I am really excited to meet you all and I am re-

ally excited to get started. I was at FRAA this morning and walking downtown and I just love what you guys are doing with the 'Art Exposed,'" Wisniewski said. "That, to me, is really exciting and I am looking forward to getting my teeth into it." The city councilor referred to PAC's "Art Exposed" rotating art gallery, which has placed two rounds of sculptures in Historic Old Town Florence on Bay Street. During the meeting,


Weese led PAC members through a training session detailing the structure and processes used by the City of Florence in relationship to its committees, commissions and boards. She also spoke on the role of the PAC chairperson and the manner in which PAC members communicate with the media. After this, Community Economic Development Assistant Sarah Moehrke reviewed projects which

have been completed by PAC, such as about Art Exposed, and those remaining in the workplan, such as the steps at the Siuslaw River Bridge. PAC was formed in 2015 and tasked with the mandate of integrating art into the community, with the additional goal of accruing economic benefits from visitors that include Florence in their travel plans specifically to view art. The committee's duties include: establishing and


maintaining a city art collection; developing a map and list of desired locations and projects for future accessions; preparing for and securing funding for additional art works; and considering projects by private developers and citizens that would result in public art. During the past two years, PAC has been at the center of some public conflict between former Florence City Councilor Joshua Greene and Mayor Joe Henry, at times turning the attention from art and creativity to the personalities involved in the administration of PAC-led programs. In that time, a fundamental shift occurred in the mechanisms used to

fund PAC's art purchases. The future of those purchases is now unclear following a decision by Florence City Council to no longer provide funding through the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA). The reduction in money available for PAC for its various projects is one of the challenges the committee will face next as members look to establish a funding mechanism. At the end of the meeting, PAC chose Maggie Bagon as its new chairperson, with Beaudreau agreeing to continue as vice chair. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for April 12. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.


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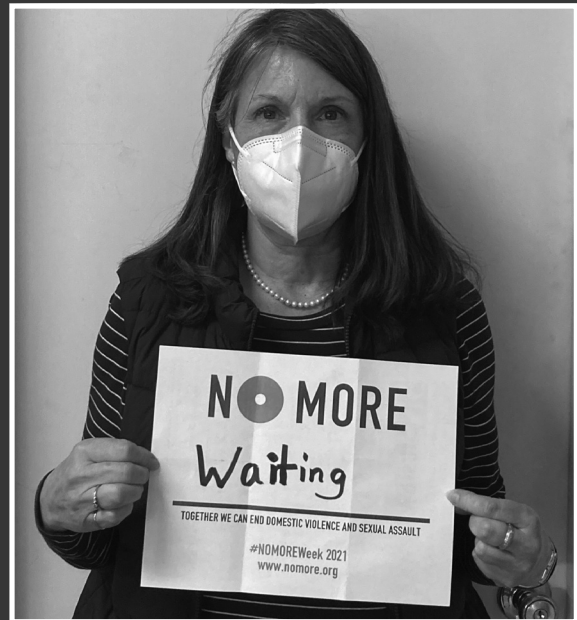
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