

Emergency operations center may be vulnerable to a tsunami

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The center built to handle operations in a catastrophe may itself be vulnerable to a disaster.

The county's Emergency Operations Center is in Warrior Hall at Camp Rilea.

"The best science at the time indicated that the EOC was in a good location," said Vincent Aarts, emergency management coordinator for the

county.

Shortly after the center's ribbon-cutting in 2011, a 9.0 quake struck off the coast of Japan, triggering a tsunami that devastated that country.

"As Tohoku happened, it looked like we were in an inundation zone," Aarts said. "What we're talking about is the very largest of earthquakes. The EOC is very well placed for every other disaster."

Plenty have potential to do great



Aarts

harm to Clatsop County: volcanic activity, dam failure, floods and landslides, wildfires, insect infestations, wind and weather emergencies. Man-made disaster could come from bombs, wars, hazardous materials incidents, communications failures, influenza outbreaks, civil disorder and nuclear disaster.

Warrenton and other coastal communities would be particularly vulnerable, according to Aarts.

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Courtesy Clatsop County

The county's Emergency Operations Center is at Camp Rilea.



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

A boulder bound for North Jetty on the Washington side of the river glides past Dairy Maid and the four-way stop perched on the back of a Big River Construction truck.

Roads rock and roll in Warrenton as project continues

The Columbia Press

Things are rocking down the highway once again.

After a winter hiatus, the project to stabilize North Jetty in Ilwaco is back in full swing. Boulders for the Army Corps of Engineers project are headed through town.

As many as 40 truckloads of rocks, weighing 6 to 30 tons each, are making their way through town, courtesy of Big River Construction, which is serving as a

sub-contractor for J.E. McAmis, a heavy civil marine contractor from Chico, Calif., which won the jetty stabilization contract.

Last July, the rocks began arriving by barge from Bellingham, Wash., to the Warrenton Fiber/Nygaard Logging dock on Northwest 13th Street.

Eight to 10 Big River tractor-trailers are making four to five rock hauls a day from Warrenton to Ilwaco.

Both North and South jetties were built between 1885 and 1939 to make

passage safer for vessels entering the Columbia River from the ocean.

The North Jetty project should be completed this year. Then reconstruction begins at South Jetty in Warrenton and will go through 2023.

The jetties are critical for commerce in the Northwest. Should a major storm breach a critical section, sand could be deposited into the navigation channel, potentially shutting down commercial shipping, according to the corps.

City takes another swipe at blighted properties

The Columbia Press

Balancing compassion with the strong arm of the law can be daunting, Warrenton officials have found.

A hoarder whose rental property is packed inside and out with bottles, cans and other "collectables" will likely be homeless unless patience prevails in cleaning it up.

City commissioners voted Tuesday night to declare a duplex at Main Avenue and Ninth Street a public nuisance. The property at 951-953 S.W.

Main Court is strewn with junk cars, rubbish, overgrown vegetation and boxes of junk.

Community Development Director Kevin Cronin sent a letter by certified



Cronin

mail to property owner Adam Bridgens of Portland and Warrenton Police Department posted the site, which has a single tenant, with an abatement notice on May 9.

Another property at 165 S.E. Second Street owned by Hazel Moore

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