

Getting prepared



Peggy Yingst

Vincent Aarts, Clatsop County's emergency management director, was one of a dozen speakers last weekend at the second annual Emergency Preparedness event sponsored by the city and Warrenton-Hammond CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). "What disaster mitigation is, really, is getting a few things," he said. Other speakers talked about what things to get, how to care for pets and what to expect from first responders. Raffle prizes donated by Fred Meyer, Home Depot, Main Street Market, and Trina and Ron's Place provided emergency supplies and meals.

Groups offer awards for essays on the importance of voting

Students in grades 9-12 in Clatsop and Pacific counties are invited to submit an original personal essay to win cash prizes from two local groups.

The contest is a nonpartisan Vote the Future project of Indivisible North Coast Oregon and the American Association of University Women.

The essays, on the topic "Why I Will Always Vote," should be no more than 500 words, double-spaced with 12-point font.

A cover page should include the title, student name, age, grade, school, email address, and phone number.

Essays are due by Monday, Oct. 7. Submit via email to iwillvoteessay@gmail.com.

Winners will be announced at the end of October. Complete rules are at [\[saycontest.com\]\(http://saycontest.com\).](http://iwillvotees-</p>
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First prize is \$250; second prize is \$150; and third prize is \$100.

Last year's winners were from Naselle-Grays River Valley School and Astoria High School.

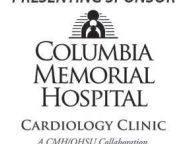


Sunday, October 13, 2019

10K Run/Walk across the Astoria-Megler Bridge

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Registration: \$40 per person.

T-shirt: \$15-\$17 each.

Chip-timing for all participants.

Bridge will be closed to vehicles from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

EVENT HOST



County gets grant to develop emergency routes

Clatsop County was been awarded a state grant to create a plan for emergency evacuation routes and facilities.

The \$132,000 grant was one of 12 recently awarded statewide through the Transportation and Growth Management Program, a joint initiative of the Oregon Department of Transportation and Department of Land Conservation and Development.

The money will fund the development of a tsunami evacuation facilities improvement plan, intended to identify routes and ac-

companying facilities to save lives during and after a tsunami event, including any future Cascadia Zone earthquake and tsunami.

The project will be led by the county Community Development Department in partnership with the county's Public Works and Emergency Management departments.

They'll assess the vulnerability of the county transportation infrastructure; analyze existing evacuation facilities and improvement needs; identify, evaluate and prioritize needed evacuation facility improvements, including evacuation route right-of-way

dedications; identify and prioritize options that provide dual uses; and identify financing options to implement the plan.

A key feature of the plan will be identifying the best locations for routes that not only can provide safe evacuation from tsunami inundation zones for residents and visitors, but can also serve as year-round recreational facilities, such as off-road bicycle paths.

It will also identify "lifeline" routes for delivering goods in the aftermath of an event.

OSU receives quake study grant to look at coastal areas

Oregon State University will receive more than \$400,000 in federal funds to research how large earthquakes, like those that could strike the Cascadia Subduction Zone, would affect the western electrical grid.

"At a time that scientists are sounding the alarm about the potential for a devastating earthquake to one day hit Oregon and the entire West Coast, it's vital to understand the risks of a quake of that magnitude, especially the

possible effects on the electrical grid that keeps everything running," said U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "The more information we can gather ahead of time, the more local communities can prepare to respond in the face of disaster."

The award from the National Science Foundation to OSU

will provide \$433,792 for the project "Earthquake Resilience of the Western Power Grid."

University of Oregon recently received a U.S. Geological Survey grant for its ShakeAlert research, which is attempting to develop an early warning system for earthquakes along the coast.

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