

Earthquake prep urges people to be '2 Weeks Ready'

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

As Saturday wrapped up Cascadia Earthquake Preparedness Week in Oregon, Umatilla County's emergency manager hopes people will resolve to be a little more prepared for any future disaster.

"We hope people will have a general all-hazard preparedness mindset and be prepared for any event any time of the year," Tom Roberts said.

Roberts said the county is fully on board with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management's campaign to persuade Oregonians to be "2 Weeks Ready" for emergencies. That means having enough food, water, toiletries and other supplies at home to live on for at least two weeks without outside assistance.

"We want to make sure as many people as possible are prepared to be self-sustaining for as long as possible," Roberts said.

He said if people have already built up two weeks worth of supplies for their family, the next step would



HH file photo
Umatilla County Emergency Coordinator Alan Polan reads his call sign on a ham radio during a test of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region 10 ham radio network on Feb. 21, 2018, in Pendleton.

be to periodically rotate out old items, such as food, medications and batteries, to keep them updated.

Having emergency supplies on hand can be valuable in a variety of situations, including floods, fires, earthquakes, blizzards, power outages or a contaminated drinking water supply.

But it could be especially vital during a widespread disaster, such as a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

A magnitude 8.0 or 9.0 earthquake would topple thousands of buildings and kill thousands of Oregonians on the west side of the state. It could spur later

aftershocks in Eastern Oregon, but even if Umatilla County residents are spared from most of the shaking, they could still be without everything from electricity to cell phone service to gasoline for weeks.

In that case, Umatilla County residents being self-sufficient would enable

BE 2 WEEKS READY

Items that will help households be 2 Weeks Ready include:

- 1) A gallon of clean water per person per day for drinking and hygiene
- 2) Nonperishable food for each person (make sure you can either eat it without cooking or have a plan for preparing it without electricity, such as a propane camp stove)
- 3) A first aid kit and supply of needed medications
- 4) Hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, etc.)
- 5) Flashlights or lanterns and extra batteries
- 6) At least one blanket for each family member
- 7) NOAA weather radio
- 8) A portable cell phone charger that can hold several days' worth of charge
- 9) Disposable plates, cups and cutlery (cuts down on water needed for washing)
- 10) Specialty items your family may need such as pet food or diapers

supplies coming in to Oregon to be prioritized for the hardest-hit areas of the state.

Gov. Kate Brown declared Jan. 26-Feb. 1 (the 320th anniversary of the last Cascadia quake) as Cascadia Earthquake Preparedness Awareness Week to encourage people to make a disaster plan and emergency kit to be 2 Weeks Ready.

"Being prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks is an achievable goal and you may be more prepared

than you think," Althea Rizzo, geologic hazards program coordinator for Oregon's Office of Emergency Management, said in a statement. "See what you already have and you can get there over time."

The state has published information about preparedness for individuals, families, children, seniors, pets, livestock, businesses and more at <https://www.oregon.gov/OEM/hazardsprep/Pages/2-Weeks-Ready.aspx>.

Proposed bill hopes to increase dental health awareness

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

Children on the east side of the state are seeing more access to dental care than their western counterparts, according to a new study released by Oregon Health & Science University.

The study uses Oregon Health Authority data to determine how many children on the Oregon Health Plan had access to any dental services or preventative dental services. Statewide, about half of the kids enrolled had access to dental care like cleanings and fluoride treatments in 2018.

"Difficulty accessing these services at a dentist's office or in the community can place children at risk of complicated problems later on," the report states.

More than 60% of children in Umatilla County, who were enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan in 2018, received at least one dental service that year. Ten percent of those children received services through a school program.

Morrow County had the second highest average in the state with more than



HH file photo
Dr. Blair Smith puts a silver nitrate treatment on a child's teeth at his office in Pendleton in 2014. A new bill seeks to increase awareness of dental health.

70% of children on state health insurance receiving any kind of dental service.

One-fifth of those children received services through a school program.

"Low-income children are less likely to visit a dentist than their higher-income peers, making policies to improve dental care access especially important for this population," the report states.

The study precedes a bill set to hit the Oregon House floor this coming legislative session. It would require school districts to incorporate oral health into curriculum and also provide access to federal funding for dental programs through the Oregon Health Authority.

The bill is sponsored by more than a dozen lawmakers, including Senator Bill Hansell, R-Athena.

In recent years, the Oregon Community Foundation helped provide grants for children's dental health programs, including to the Pendleton-based Intermountain Educational Service District and to the Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance.

But according to a statement released in part by the Foundation, those grants are set to sunset this year.

City of Hermiston posts city hall survey

HERMISTON HERALD

As the city of Hermiston prepares to make a major decision about city hall, residents are being asked to chime in.

The city published an online survey Friday that will be available through the month of February at <http://bit.ly/HermistonCityHall>. The survey asks people about their current use of city hall, and asks them to rank the importance of priorities such as access for individuals with disabilities, security, effi-

ciency and room to grow.

The current city hall was originally built as a bank building in 1965 and the city purchased and remodeled it in 1986. City councilors had named building a new city hall with more room and accessibility as one of their goals in the coming years. After the building had a fire in the HVAC system in December, and the city is now faced with a choice about whether to put the insurance money into repairing the current building or build a new one this year.

Umatilla County Sheriff to seek third term

HERMISTON HERALD

No names have been officially entered into the 2020 race for Umatilla County sheriff yet, but incumbent Terry Rowan confirmed he's planning on another run.

"I do plan on running again, and trying to earn another term serving Umatilla County," Rowan told the *Hermiston Herald* last week.

Rowan would be seeking a third term as sheriff, a position he's held since

first being elected in 2012. In 2016, he defeated challenger Ryan Lenhart 56% to 42%. Lenhart is currently a corporal with the Pendleton Police Department.

Rowan said he plans to submit his candidacy paperwork soon, and that he hasn't yet simply because he's been too busy with his duties at the office. He said he wasn't aware if there were others planning on running against him.

Rowan's career began as a civilian employee with

the sheriff's office back in 1989 before becoming a sheriff's deputy the following year. He then left in 1995 to take a detective position with the Hermiston Police Department before returning 10 years later as the undersheriff to John Trumbo in 2005.

Candidates have until March 10 to file with the Umatilla County Elections Office for the primaries that will take place on May 19. If only two candidates file for the sheriff's race, both

will advance to the general election in November. If there are more than two, May 19 will be a primary election with the top two candidates advancing to November's ballot.

Band boosters tune up with Valentine's benefit dance

A Valentine's spaghetti dinner and auction will help boost fundraising efforts for a Hermiston High School band trip to Los Angeles.

The Hermiston Band Boosters are hosting the event Saturday, Feb. 15 from 5-8 p.m. in the school's commons, 600 S. First St.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the silent auction (closing bids at 7:15 p.m.), fol-

lowed by dinner at 6 p.m., a dessert auction at 6:30 p.m. The evening also features live music and dancing.

The cost is \$20 per plate or \$100 for a table of six. All ages are welcome.

The evening also includes entertainment provided by Hermiston Jazz Band 1 and Hermiston Jazz Band 2.

In addition, a regional horn band will play. Brass

Fire features a variety of talented musicians, including current/past band directors, some who have played on cruise ships, with military bands or professionally across the country.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact HHS band director Sean McClanahan at sean.mcclanahan@hermistonhsd.org.

Tickets also will be available at the door.

NW SHADE CO.
Solar Shades, Screens, Retractable Awnings & More!
"Enhancing the Art of Outdoor Living"

509-308-1354
License #188965

SUN CONTROL
www.nwshadeco.com
102 E Columbia Dr. Kennewick 99336

Sunesta
AWNINGS & OUTDOOR COMFORT

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Interested in a Medical career? Need funds to complete your training?

Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation medical scholarship applications are now being accepted from qualified local students through February 29th.

The Foundation is again pleased to partner with Tualatin Imaging to offer additional scholarships for students who have expressed interest in pursuing a diagnostic imaging career

Please call 541-667-3419 for further information
Applications can be accessed online at www.gshealth.org/foundation/scholarships

JUST RELEASED

UMATILLA COUNTY MEMORIES

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE MID-1800S THROUGH 1939



UMATILLA COUNTY MEMORIES

Hardcover book
Limited supply

\$44.95
plus tax & shipping

Heirloom quality, 144 pages • Historic photos of Umatilla County from the mid-1800s through 1939 • Books are selling quickly — order yours today!

Learn more and order online at
Umatilla.PictorialBook.com

EAST OREGONIAN

or call 800-522-0255