

Grenade makes for startling discovery in Habitat dumpster

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

When Habitat for Humanity volunteer George Aaro unlocked the chain around the dumpster of the nonprofit's Belfair store Tuesday morning, he received quite a shock.

Aaro noticed a grenade sitting atop the debris inside the dumpster.

"He thought it could be a toy, but being ex-military, he thought it looked like it could be the real deal," said Tammey Newton, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Mason County. "He called me over, and I thought it looked like it could be real, so we called the

sheriff."

Newton and other volunteers evacuated the building and blocked off the parking lot before a deputy from the Mason County Sheriff's Office arrived.

Deputy Ruben Castillo believed the grenade could pose a danger and called the Washington State Patrol's bomb squad.

By Tuesday night, Washington State Patrol confirmed that the grenade had been active, said Mason County Chief Criminal Deputy Ryan Spurling.

"It appeared to be a World War II-marked grenade," Spurling told com-

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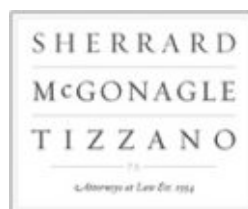
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