



Mike McCollum



Kurt Ellison

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, above, at Main Street and Freedom Boulevard in Watsonville, was due to be re-inspected today to see if it has to be torn down. At right, Gilbert Alvarez, with Oscar Alvarez on the handlebars, crossed an empty Pajaro bridge this morning; the bridge has been closed to cars.

Aftershock clobbers Watsonville again

By CHELA ZABIN
STAFF WRITER

Five major aftershocks were felt in Watsonville and the surrounding area last night and early this morning, and another mobile home burned to the ground at Rancho Cerritos Mobile Home Park shortly after one this morning, City Clerk Lorraine Washington said this morning.

Cracks were discovered in the bridge across the Pajaro River at about 5 this morning, and the bridge was closed until it can be repaired, she said. A gas main that runs under the bridge is being rerouted, she said, and Pacific Bell is also working on finding a way to reroute the phone

lines on the bridge. A crack on Main Street near Arthur Road sank down a couple inches and other deep cracks have appeared on Riverside Avenue and Riverside Way, and the bridge at East Lake and College Road dropped a couple inches this morning, she said. It had not been closed as of 10 a.m. today, but Washington said the city's "keeping an eye on it." Buildings in the downtown area, including St. Patrick's Church, were being reinspected today to see if they sustained further damage last night, said Mayor Betty Murphy. "They evaluate the buildings, and then we have another five

point something on the Richter scale and they have to reevaluate," said Murphy, adding that if damage is severe, some downtown landmarks may be demolished. "The old buildings, the landmarks, are in the worst condition," Murphy said. Some buildings downtown have already been condemned, Murphy said, but which or how many she couldn't say. There are still gas leaks in three Watsonville-area streets: at Elm Street, between Marchant and Lincoln streets, at Jonathan and Cayetano in Pajaro, and on Holohan Road west of Highway 152. Residents should not have

fires on any kind of open flames in houses or even outside in these areas, or in any area where gas can be smelled, Leonardo West, manager of PG&E for Watsonville said. A gas leak smells a bit like a rotten egg and sometimes a whistling sound can be heard as it escapes from a pipe, he said. A gas leak was discovered at the shelter at the National Guard Armory last night, and 125 people staying there were evacuated for 25 minutes while the leak was stopped, she said. Between 400 and 500 people stayed at the city's three shelters last night, where free food, shelter and clothing is available.

An ammonia leak that the city thought had been stopped at the Green Giant plant was reported again this morning. Utilities are being restored and roads are beginning to open up. Washington said water should be restored to 85 percent of Watsonville households by tonight. While city officials don't think the water is contaminated, they are still asking residents to take precautions and boil or add bleach to their drinking water. Washington said a water truck would probably come to the plaza this afternoon with distilled water for people who are concerned about water contamination. See DAMAGE page 2 ▶

Earthquake

Damage greater after second quake

► From page 1

Power should be restored to 9,400 customers in Watsonville on a house-by-house basis by this weekend, said PG&E manager West. No figures on the total number of people in the city without power were available, but countywide, the number was 30,000 this morning. West said people who have turned off their gas should not attempt to turn it back on themselves, but should call PG&E for help.

Garbage services are operating as normal, Washington said. Residents can call the city garbage service to be put on a waiting list for special containers to dispose of debris, she said.

Main Street in the downtown area is still blocked off, but Hecker Pass Road and Highway 152 have been opened, she said.

Medical services were available in the city at Watsonville Community Hospital, Salud Para La Gente and Doctors on Duty on Green Valley Road. Washington said she thought the Medical Group of Watsonville on Freedom Boulevard would be open by this afternoon. Sixty people were seen at the various emergency rooms last night, she said, most for minor complaints and anxiety-related problem.

Salud Para La Gente has provided medical services to about 60 people since the earthquake hit, said executive director Barbara Garcia. The clinic has been open 24 hours since the earthquake hit and provided immediate first aid to the five people injured downtown immediately afterwards, she said.

Other than those five, most of the people who have come to the clinic have had minor injuries like cuts and bruises. Others have been tried for anxiety-related complaints, hypertension, asthma and bronchitis. A number of children with colds and fevers, possibly due to spending the

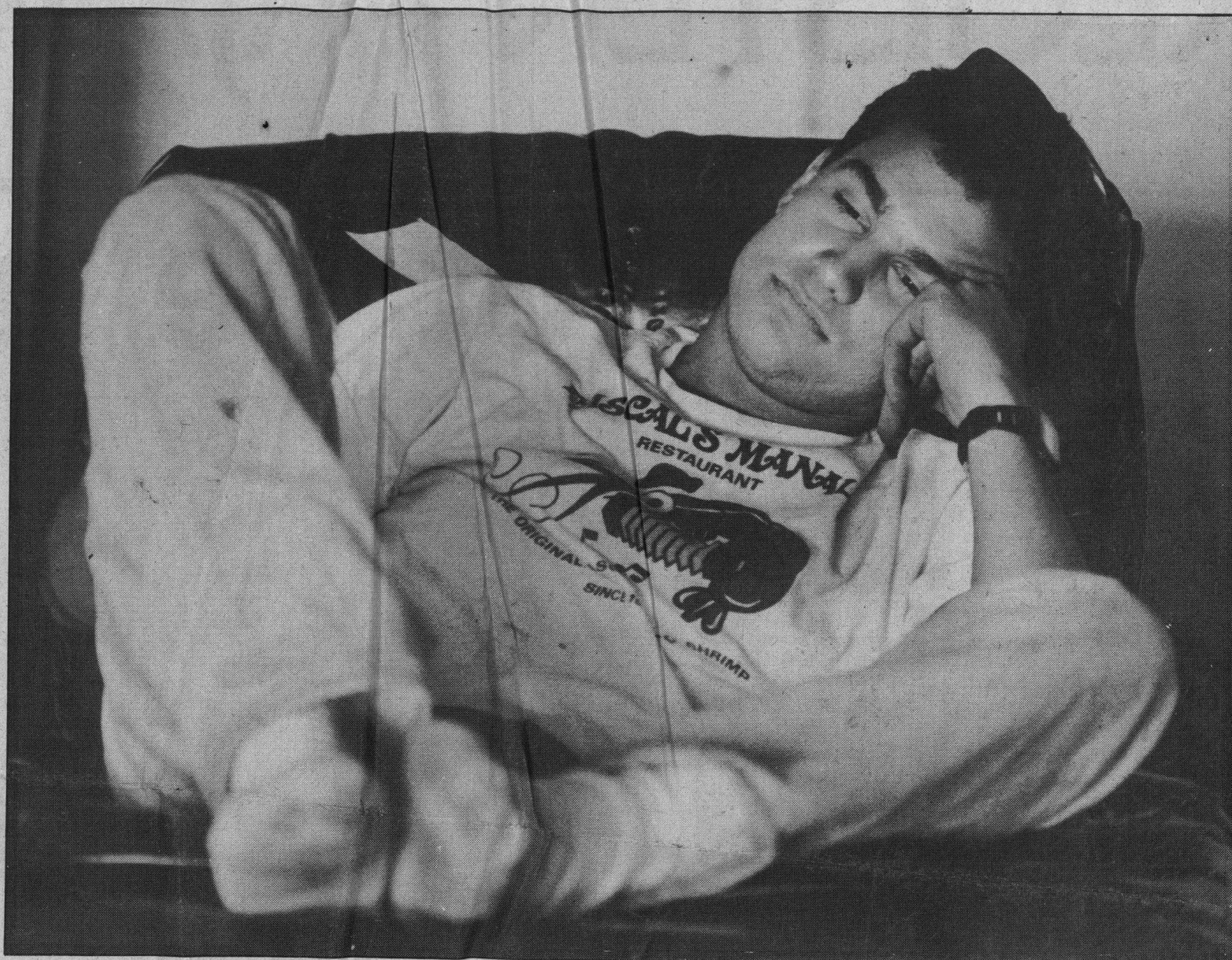
nights outside, have also been seen. Garcia said the clinic is concerned about possibility that diarrhea outbreaks, due to problems with spoiled food or contaminated water, may occur.

Granite Rock has equipped the clinic with a generator, which was keeping the examining rooms lit and brewing a pot of coffee on the sidewalk this morning. The city provided outdoor lights among other things, Garcia said, praising the city for its responsiveness to the clinics needs. Garcia said the clinic is beginning to run a little low on medical supplies and has a "wish list" of other items its presenting to the city and county. She was phoning pharmacies this morning to try to locate more supplies.

Reports of price-gouging at several local stores came into the R-P offices this morning, but Police Chief Terry Medina said his department hadn't gotten any. In fact, he said, he'd heard just the opposite, that stores had been giving away perishables. He said that he wasn't sure his department could do anything if price-gouging was reported, but that officers would probably try to reason with the store keepers. No looting had been reported, he said.

Washington said the count of destroyed homes in the city is at 100, and that yesterday's estimate of damages to homes, now outdated, was \$16 million, and to businesses, between \$60 million and \$75 million.

The City Council has taken the first couple of steps necessary to qualify for federal emergency funds, declaring a state of emergency yesterday afternoon and sending the proper paperwork via a FAX machine to the state Office of Emergency Services. Washington said that she didn't know when the funds would actually arrive, but that FEMA officials would soon be visiting Watsonville.



Mike McCollum

Forty winks

Emergency medical technician Victor Polverino, a firefighter with the freedom fire department,

caught a little nap late yesterday after 26 hours of continuous duty after the earthquake.