

When vacationing, they have your GO BAG READY!

By **DAVE FISHER**
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Go bags now among the amenities guest can expect at Ocean Inn

In what could be a first on the Oregon coast, a lodging facility in Manzanita has equipped its guest rooms with emergency go bags should the unthinkable happen, namely a devastating tsunami resulting from an earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone 70 miles offshore.

Because of its close proximity to the beach, the Ocean Inn, located at the western end of Laneda Avenue in Manzanita, has been a favorite with tourists and out-of-towners for a quarter century. The 10-room inn affords its guests with wonderful views of the Pacific and is mere footsteps away from Manzanita’s sandy beaches. On the flip side, it has the dubious distinction of being one of the first structures along the beach to be virtually wiped out by a wall of water when “the big one” happens. Well aware of that reality, owners Larry and Janice Zagata began thinking of their social responsibility as hotel owners to their guests and their safety.

“After attending an emergency preparedness meeting a few years ago, I really began thinking seriously about this,” Janice Zagata said. “There’s always that element of surprise, natural disasters can happen at any time.”

The preparedness meeting referenced by Zagata was one of many sponsored by the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay the past 11 years. The emergency volunteer corps came into being shortly after the December 2007 storm that struck the North Coast accompanied by hurricane force winds that toppled trees and power poles. Many areas were left without electricity for a week or more suggesting that a emergency response organization made up of volunteers to lend a hand during natural disasters was a good idea. Today, with upwards of 400 volunteers, the corps is the primary reason Manzanita, and its nearby neighbors Nehalem and Wheeler, is considered the best prepared community in the event of a major earthquake and tsunami.

It was on a visit to Tonquin Trading in



TOP Ocean Inn three-day go bags include emergency supplies for two people.

LEFT Linda Cook, emergency volunteer; Janice and Larry Zagata, Ocean Inn owners; and Jason Johnson, owner of Tonquin Trading, review a video about Ocean Inn’s emergency go bags.

Dave Fisher/For Cannon Beach Gazette

‘THE GO KIT IS DESIGNED TO GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTION.’

Jason Johnson, Tonquin Trading owner and one-time North Dakota oil fields safety trainer

Seaside the Zagatas took the next step in offering its guests peace of mind in addition to a great view and easy beach access. Open since 2016, the outdoor apparel store on Broadway specializes in high-quality backpacking, hiking and emergency preparedness gear.

“I had popped into Jason’s store initially to check out emergency go bags for

our personal use,” said Larry Zagata. “But we felt it had gotten to the point that we needed to do something for our guests as well. So, I reached out to Jason and he helped develop an emergency kit to fit our needs.”

Over the course of the next couple of months Tonquin Trading owner Jason Johnson, a one-time North Dakota oil

fields safety trainer, came up with a tsunami resiliency kit to fit the needs of Ocean Inn and its guests. Based on double occupancy the two-person tsunami-resiliency kit, or go bag as it is commonly known, includes, at a cost of \$70 each, emergency blankets, ponchos hand warmers, water packets, 400-calorie food bars, 12-hour light stick, and basic first-aid-kit. In addition, the Zagatas developed an emergency information sheet with a map of downtown Manzanita showing the most direct evacuation route to the nearest emergency assembly area, in this case Underhill Plaza on Manzanita Avenue. In the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, one would have just 15 minutes following the end of the initial shaking to reach higher ground before a tsunami would inundate lower elevations.

“The go kit is designed to get you where you need to go for additional emergency supplies and instruction,” said Johnson. The supplies included address maintaining one’s core temperature to avoid hypothermia with ample water and basic nutrition for a period of three days.

Emergency volunteer corps officials hope this is only the beginning of a trend that eventually stretches along the entire length of Oregon’s coastline. EVCNB has go bag classes where they sell, at cost, items the participants would need for their personal go bags.

“The go bag is the most critical item to have, especially in the beginning when a natural disaster occurs,” said EVCNB Go Bag Coordinator Linda Cook. “A go bag is an insurance policy. It’s better to be prepared than scared.”

With go bags in each of their 10 guest rooms and offices the Zagatas, who caught on early to the corps’ emergency preparedness message, are glad their guests can rest a little easier.

“Natural disasters don’t wait until its convenient or daylight happens,” Janice Zagata said. “There’s always that element of surprise, when you least expect and are caught off guard.”

“I hope this is the beginning of a trend because it’s the right thing to do,” her husband added.

To learn more about the emergency volunteer corps and emergency preparedness, visit www.evcnb.org. For more information about Tonquin Trading and its services visit www.tonquintrading.com.

Opioid treatment center headed to Highway 101 location in Seaside

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

A new clinic that will provide methadone to treat heroin and prescription opioid addiction could open this fall.

CODA, a Portland-based drug treatment provider, is negotiating a lease with Terry Lowenberg for a former real estate office on South Holladay Drive off U.S. Highway 101.

The clinic could treat up to 300 people, said Tim Hartnett, CODA’s executive director. Along with methadone, people could receive other federally approved medication-assisted treatment for drug abuse, such as buprenorphine or naltrexone.

“We help people in the deep end of the pool,” Hart-

nett said at a City Council meeting Monday night. “We help people who not only have drug and alcohol problems, but are tangled up in poverty, tangled up in the criminal justice system, the child welfare system. We work with a very complicated caseload.”

The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, which oversees the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, has sought a local methadone treatment option because of the high cost of paying for people to get help in the Portland metro area.

Andy Mendenhall, the



Tim Hartnett



2367 South Holladay Drive, planned home to a CODA treatment facility.

chief medical officer at Central City Concern, which works on homeless, poverty and addiction issues in Portland, said there is a lack of treatment in rural areas. Hospitalizations associated with opioid abuse in the three counties are well above

the statewide average.

“Part of the opportunity presented by the CODA continuum here in the Seaside community is to provide a hub for patients to receive treatment,” he said.

“I see an opportunity to close the treatment gap, and

allow people to get treatment locally, and that’s good for those individuals, their families and the community.”

When the prospect for a methadone clinic on the North Coast surfaced last summer, city leaders in Astoria and Warrenton recognized the need but were cool to the idea of a location in their cities.

The new clinic in Seaside does not need approval from the City Council, Mayor Jay Barber said.

City Councilor Dana Phillips said she is “proud of CODA” and the work they do. The provider has 40 years of experience in treating opioid abuse.

But some in the city are concerned the clinic might be unwelcome and add to public safety needs.

Brian Owen, the execu-

tive director of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, said he anticipated “a lot of questions and misstatements and information that is not read completely through” from people in the community.

Fire Chief Joey Daniels asked if the clinic will lead to an increase in call loads. “We’re already limited in capabilities with our resource and any call is a taxing call already,” he said.

Seaside Police Lt. Bruce Holt called CODA’s plan “intriguing,” but sought more information on how law enforcement would work with the clinic “to get help for people we come across.”

Hartnett said emergency calls from the clinic would be more than offset by fewer drug overdoses and other drug-related emergencies.



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