

# Tsunami-resiliency kits make a splash in Manzanita

By **DAVE FISHER**  
For Seaside Signal

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



Dave Fisher/For Cannon Beach Gazette

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

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 an 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 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,



Dave Fisher/For Cannon Beach Gazette

**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.**

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 emer-

gency 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](http://www.evcnb.org). For more information about Tonquin Trading and its services visit [www.tonquintrading.com](http://www.tonquintrading.com).

## A lifeline for those in need at Homeless Connect

**Local groups offer services, essentials**

By **EVE MARX**  
For Seaside Signal

The Cannon Beach Community Church had a big day at Project Homeless Connect donating water-repellent blankets, boots, rain gear, women's knit hats and tote bags to some of the 175 homeless or transient people who passed through the Seaside Civic and Convention Center by 1 p.m.

Nancy Giasson said the church distributed 50 pairs of men's underwear; 50 pairs of men's socks; 40 pairs of women's underwear and 40 pairs of women's socks, as well as 40 pairs of women's gloves.

Other necessities were distributed at the Jan. 29 event. Alan Evans, Founder and Director of Helping Hands, said he dispersed 140 personal care bags containing toilet paper and toiletries.

"There's been good camaraderie here today," Evans said. "All the participating agencies are working well together to serve the population." He said every year the population demographic and the need is a little different, in large part because policies regarding assistance to the homeless and transient population are always changing.

Project Homeless Connect has become an annual event at the Seaside Convention Center. Organized by Clatsop Community Action and sponsored by Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation; Clatsop Community Action; Coastal Family Health Center; Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital, the five-hour event offered the local homeless and transient population referrals and information on legal and medical and mental health services, transportation, food stamps, veteran services, employment, housing, and food stamp applications to where they might get a hot meal, a haircut, or do laundry.

Laundry Love's mission is aiding families struggling with the cost of doing laundry. Laundry Love pays for two loads of laundry and drying per family unit. Join them or donate quarters or a snack on Feb. 9 or March 9



Sheila Yates of Laundry Love at Project Homeless Connect.



Shelley Forsythe and Shawna Neumeister were on hand to represent The Harbor.



Justin Johnson, Transportation Coordinator for Providence Seaside Hospital said he spent a large portion of his day at Project Homeless Connect directing people to the right person or agency to help them.



Alan Evans of Helping Hands Re-entry and Outreach helps provide daily necessities.

Seaside. Seamus A. McVey is founder of A.P.E.S., which stands for Anonymous Practical Everyday Support.

"A.P.E.S. is a 12 step program that deals with root causes of issues that affect our lives," McVey said. He uses a version of the 12

Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous that replaces the word "God" with "Higher Power," as religious beliefs or lack of them can be a barrier to come to a self help program.

"Another way we break the barrier is encouraging laughter," McVey said. "Healing and growth is hard enough on its own. If we can laugh, we can enjoy the process a little bit more." Call or text 503-440-3983 for more information.

Shawna Neumeister and Shelley Forsythe represented The Harbor, offering free and confidential support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Harbor is not affiliated with law enforcement and does not make mandatory reports about client's experiences, nor require clients to produce proof of citizenship or ID.

Located at 801 Commercial Ave. in Astoria, The Harbor recently began offering support group services through referral at Seaside Providence Hospital. A specific group for Latina survivors of recent or past domestic and sexual violence meets every Thursday for ten weeks at the hospital starting Feb. 7. For more information regarding the Latin@ group, call or text 503-338-9131. The 24-hour, seven-day hotline is 503-325-5735.

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