

EMERGENCY KITS FOR KIDS

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For Seaside Signal

The Cannon Beach Academy received a special delivery this month that marks an important step in the school's effort to be prepared for keeping students safe during an emergency or natural disaster.

Jason Johnson, with Tonquin Trading Company, on Tuesday dropped off several dozen emergency survival kits purchased with funds from a Cannon Beach Community Grant the academy recently received.

"We have to be able to rely on ourselves, because we don't know what's going to be available," Cannon Beach Academy Director Amy Fredrickson said.

Each of the 55 lightweight Go Kits for Kids is designed to help a person survive for 72 hours, or three days, and includes a high-calorie food bar, light stick, hand warmer, emergency blanket, poncho, and packets of drinking water.

The administration will then have parents add pictures, medications, extra clothing and a comforting item to their child's kit. Each one will also receive a laminated name tag that includes the student's emergency contact and allergy information.

Having acquired the Go Kits for Kids, the school can now incorporate them into tsunami drills, allowing the students to get used to wearing them while walking



Jason Johnson, of Tonquin Trading Company, delivers an order of emergency kits to Cannon Beach Academy. The lightweight Go Kits for Kids are suitable for students to carry and use during an emergency or natural disaster.

to the evacuation site. Another step is figuring out storage, Fredrickson said, or how to keep the packs out of the way for day-to-day operations, yet accessible in the event of an emergency.

From the inside out

Outfitting the school with Go Kits for Kids is another step in building up the entire community and preparing for an emergency, which is Johnson's specialty.

With a background doing risk mitigation on the oil fields of North Dakota, Johnson's mission upon arriving in the Pacific Northwest a few years ago was to help the



Tonquin Trading Company's Go Kits for Kids include supplies designed to help students survive for 72 hours during an emergency or natural disaster. The Cannon Beach Academy acquired 55 kits on Tuesday, April 9, as part of the school's emergency preparedness efforts.

local communities prepare for the most significant natural disaster they face — a Cascadia Sub-

duction Zone earthquake and tsunami — "from the inside, out."

"I don't think anyone's

prepared to see the devastation we would experience in the current scenario," Johnson said, adding that when humans go days without water or weeks without food, "You automatically go into survival mode, you don't have a choice."

He identified how hiking and outdoor apparel are already designed to be lightweight and durable, which incidentally makes them suitable products to be incorporated into emergency preparedness and resiliency. He then homed in on making those products available to the public, to both enhance their outdoor experiences while hiking and camp-

ing and to help them have adequate supplies to cope with the effects of a natural disaster.

He believes Cannon Beach's efforts to build resiliency provide a good example for other coastal communities to follow. The ongoing process of planning for a natural emergency is also beneficial from a tourism perspective.

"You become the most prepared place on the coast, and suddenly, you become to safest place to visit on the coast," Johnson said.

Education and preparation

In addition to the Go Kits for Kids, the academy also used the more than \$9,000 community grant to enhance its food program and purchase two medical triage kits and items that would be necessary in the event of a lockdown. Additionally, the doors received new locks to keep intruders out.

"It's assuring to know we have these safeguards," Business Manager Ananda Osterhaus said. "It's so important we can keep (students) safe in every way possible."

In the coming weeks, the school will hold meetings with teachers and parents to give them information about the kits and the school's emergency plan.

"We do need to educate our kids and our families and our teachers," Fredrickson said. "We need to educate ourselves and make sure we're prepared and ready to respond."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

An art installation made from plastic bags serves as a backdrop during a concert performance at the Liberty Theatre.

Oregon lawmakers take aim at plastic bags, Styrofoam

By **MARK MILLER**
Oregon Capital Bureau

going to do about it?"

If the Senate also approves House Bill 2883, and Gov. Kate Brown signs it into law, Oregon would become the first state to ban polystyrene food containers. Such bans have become increasingly common at the city level across the country, including in Portland, Milwaukie and Silverton. Eugene is considering a ban.

Critics — including several Democratic legislators — note that polystyrene can be recycled, unlike some other forms of plastic.

"I do fear the transition from the polystyrene, which is fully recyclable, to the clamshell, fully hard plastic, hinged to-go containers — which is a lot more harmful to the environment," said Rep. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford, a coastal legislator who owns a restaurant, the Port & Starboard, in his hometown.

"We should be discussing how we can make it easier to get these materials to the recycling facility so that we can make a difference, rather than banning this product."

SALEM — Plastic grocery bags and Styrofoam takeout containers may become a thing of the past in Oregon.

The state House voted 32-28 on April 23 to prohibit retailers and restaurants from serving food to customers in polystyrene containers, and 42-18 on Thursday to ban retailers and restaurants from providing single-use bags to customers at checkout.

The first bill includes a ban on polystyrene cups, plates, bowls and takeout containers. The second covers plastic bags, except for thick plastic bags designed to be reusable, as well as paper bags that aren't made from at least 40% recycled fiber.

"Everybody here knows that we have a problem in our environment with too much plastic," state Rep. Sheri Schouten, D-Beaverton, said on the House floor Tuesday. "I think the bigger question is, what are we all

CONVENTION CENTER DATES & EVENTS

May 11

Angels Among Us holds its community fundraiser for Helping Hands Re-entry Outreach Centers.

May 14-17

The Grand Lodge/Rebekah Assembly gathers in Seaside.

May 17-19

Miss Oregon Contestant Workshop happens.

May 21-23

The 53rd Pacific Northwest Regional Eco-

nomc Conference gathers in Seaside.

May 24-25

The Sou'Wester Garden Club holds its plant sale.

May 28-29

Pacifica Projects

May 30-June 1

The Sea Pac Ham convention takes place in Seaside. This is the largest ham convention in the Northwest.



The convention center in early April.

R.J. Marx

LISTENING TO THE LAND

Moser lectures on endangered wildlife

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For Seaside Signal

When it comes to protecting threatened and endangered wildlife in Oregon, the challenge is both identifying individual species that need attention, as well as promoting the concepts of stewardship and conservation on a larger scale to guide general policies and practices throughout the state.

While Oregon Wild, a nonprofit conservation organization, is dedicated to preserving and protecting iconic and keystone species, the group has a higher purpose, as well, wildlife coordinator Danielle Moser said during her Listening to the Land presentation "Lost and Imperiled Species of

the Oregon Coast" on April 17.

"The work we do on specific wildlife

is really to serve a greater good to make sure the entire state — our legislators, our commission for (the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), our agency — cares about protection, restoration and recovery of these species," she said.

During her lecture, subtitled "An Iconic, Recovering and Threatened Wildlife," Moser discussed five keystone species that used to or currently inhabit Oregon, what external factors threaten their existence,

and what policies and/or practices contribute to their recovery.

According to historical references, Moser said, sea otters used to live in Oregon and "were important to the native coastal communities." Colonialism and the burgeoning international fur trade in the 18th and 19th centuries contributed to sea otters' extirpation. By 1810, they were reported "very scarce in Oregon," and in 1911, the last wild sea otter was reportedly shot near Newport, Moser said.

In 1969 and 1970, the federal government attempted to translocate sea otters from Amchitka Island to Oregon after an oil spill. This was before the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act were adopted, which is

important because "there wasn't quite the same level of monitoring and data collection, and just tracking what happened to the sea otters," Moser said.

The attempt was unsuccessful, although a concurrent translocation to Washington produced better results. According to Moser, various Oregon groups and agencies are investigating the benefits of a more thoughtful, meticulous reintroduction and what it would take to be successful.

A native species of Oregon, the California Condor population faced a human-caused decline in the mid-1900s because of lead, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals used especially in agriculture and farming. By 1980s, the state's population was 22 birds.



Danielle Moser