

Tribe: ‘The Chinook people and their history should not be silenced’

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Nation. There are around 10 unrecognized tribes in Washington state, including the Duwamish and Snohomish.

Hatfield's amendment was not adopted, and SB5433 passed the Senate on a 42-7 vote with a teaching mandate only for recognized tribes. Some local educators in Pacific County have included information about the Chinook Tribe in lessons, and there is nothing in the new law that will preclude this from continuing.

"I applaud the effort to require our schools to teach students about the region's important tribal history, but leaving out tribes like the Chinook Indian Nation is the wrong path for our

'They are rightfully proud of their heritage and should be part of any comprehensive look at tribal history in our classrooms.'

— Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Raymond speaking about the Chinook people

state to take," Hatfield said. "The Chinook people and their history should not be silenced," Hatfield said. "They are rightfully proud of their heritage and should be part of any comprehensive look at tribal history in our classrooms."

Sen. Brian Dansel, R-Republic, spoke in favor of Hatfield's amendment, explaining he studied the Chinook language as a high school student in northeast Washington.

"It was historical enough to study back then and I don't understand why it's not now," Dansel said.

Chinook Tribal Elder Gary Johnson is one voice urging lawmakers in Olympia to include their history in the state's official Native American curriculum.

"By excluding the Chinook from telling our history, culture, and traditions, much of the story of early contact and the fight for

survival will not be told," said Johnson in a letter to legislators. "Who will tell the story if not the Chinook? During the last 35 years, we have had a major project of recording our story. No one else has this information. This story began long before Robert Gray in 1792 and also includes the story of Lewis and Clark."

Johnson was tribal chairman in 2001 when the Chinooks briefly obtained recognition.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian file
With an assist from Jeremy Kinman, front left, Chinook Tribal Elder Gary Johnson, front right, Chinook Nation Cultural Committee Recorder Dioniscio "Don" Y. Abing, back right, and his son-in-law Andy Adams, back left, carry the tribe's journey canoe down Astoria's Commercial Street and into the Liberty Theater for a performance in 2011. The canoe is called ul-iyimits, or Old Nose, and named for the old-growth cedar that makes up the bow. Johnson and others are calling for the Chinook Indian Nation to be included among tribes that Washington state school children will learn about in mandated lesson plans.

Westport: Acquiring land from Wauna Mill was a critical step

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By this time next year, Westport will have a new ferry, new ferry landing, paved parking lot and possibly a new park and boat ramp. More long term plans include a trail between the ferry landing and the park and a transient dock, where boaters can tie up for the afternoon.

"It's a rebirth of Westport," Douma said.

Park plans

Clatsop County Parks Manager Steve Meshke said acquiring the donated land from the Wauna Mill was a critical step in moving forward with the Westport Corridor & Community Plan.

As owner of the land, the county can now submit grant applications to fund the proposed project.

Meshke had planned to apply for an Oregon State Marine Board grant by March 31 to help fund initial permitting and design work. The state marine board told Meshke to wait until the next grant cycle later this summer because the board needs to complete more surveying on the site.

The grant amount is unknown at this time, but may also cover the beginning groundwork of the parking lot.

"Right now the first goal is to get this parking lot drawn," Meshke said.

Once the parking lot is established, the focus will turn toward the park, boat launch and new bathrooms.

The idea to upgrade the Westport corridor started a decade ago. Georgia-Pacific first attempted to donate the land in 2004, but hit a roadblock when the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality suspected contamination in the



Wauna Mill as seen from Bradley State Scenic Viewpoint, just west of Westport.

area from a sawmill operation in the 1950s.

After a lengthy regulatory process that cost Georgia-Pacific \$1 million, DEQ allowed the land to be donated in 2013 and the process was completed in December.

"The ideas are there. Now we are finally starting to move on all of these pieces," Meshke said.

Meshke is coordinating with Margaret Magruder, the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council coordinator, who is spearheading an effort to reconnect Plympton Creek with its historic channel. The reconnection of the nearby creek could have a positive impact on fish habitat.

Similar to the county's plans, Magruder said, her council's work is in the early stages and may not be complete for at least two years.

The Watershed Council recently received a letter of support from state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, to help fund the Plympton Creek project.

Magruder said the next step is to complete prelim-

inary designs and apply for grants with the letter of support.

Watershed groups focus on native plants, restoring habitat and restoring impaired watersheds.

"The creek was channeled, as most have been, in order to accommodate people, the mill and housing. And at that point in time, people were not thinking about how these changes would impact nature, specifically salmon," Magruder said.

Can't wait

When Douma moved to Westport in 1965 with her husband, she witnessed the tail end of active mills supplying lumber to large ships waiting on the river.

As years passed, Douma, who worked in several departments for Wauna Mill, saw the young people in town grow up and move away, a trend in old mill towns across the country.

All the while, the waterfront area continued to wear down.

Douma believes the Westport corridor project is the



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian
Stefanie Getchius, right, of Portland, makes her way toward the water as Martin Gomez, left, of Portland, and Sean McVey, of Venice, Fla., prep their kiteboarding gear in August 2013 at Jones Beach near Westport. Locals like life on the river here.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
The new Westport Ferry Landing is expected to be completed by May 1 of this year.

biggest improvement in town since a new sewer system was built about 25 years ago.

The thought of taking her

grandchildren, who live in Westport, to the same waterfront she enjoyed as a young woman is exciting, she said.

"I can't believe I lived long enough to see it," Douma said. "It's really going to happen now. I just can't wait."

Scam: It tops the IRS list of 'Dirty Dozen' tax scams

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Treasury of tens of billions of dollars every year," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "Taxpayers must be more aware of the risks and better protected from attack and these criminals must be found and brought to justice."

The IRS and the inspector general's office started warning taxpayers about the scam a year ago, and it has since ballooned. This year, it tops the IRS list of "Dirty Dozen" tax scams.

Tax scams often increase during tax filing season, and with millions of Americans preparing their returns ahead of the April 15 deadline, the IRS is seeing many cases of identity theft and refund fraud.

In recent years the IRS has stepped up efforts to detect large numbers of tax refunds going to the same address or bank account. Using computer filters, the agency identified more than 517,000 suspicious returns and blocked \$3.1 billion in fraudulent returns, as of October 2014, Camus said in his testimony.

In 2012, the IRS started working more closely with

U.S. attorneys' offices around the country to combat tax refund fraud by people using stole identities, said Caroline Ciralo, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's tax division. Since then, the tax division has opened nearly 1,000 investigations and brought prosecutions against more than 1,400 people, Ciralo told the Senate Finance Committee hearing.

"Given the sophistication of this criminal activity and the fact that a lot of it comes from overseas, this looks to me like an emerging type of organized crime," said Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Finance Committee.

The inspector general's office started receiving complaints about the telephone scam in 2013. Immigrants were the primary target early on, the IG's office said. But the scam has since become more widespread.

As part of the telephone scam, fake IRS agents call taxpayers, claim they owe taxes, and demand payment using a prepaid debit card or a wire transfer. Those who refuse are threatened with arrest, deportation or loss of a

business or driver's license, Camus said.

The callers can manipulate caller ID to make it look like they are calling from an IRS phone number. They might even know the last four digits of the taxpayer's Social Security number, Camus said.

They request prepaid debit cards because they are harder to trace than bank cards. Prepaid debit cards are different from bank cards because they are not connected to a bank account. Instead, consumers buy the cards at stores, and use them just like a bank card, until the money runs out or they add more.

Real IRS agents usually contact people first by mail, Camus said. And they never demand payment by debit card, credit card or wire transfer.

"Our message is simple," Camus said. "If someone calls unexpectedly claiming to be from the IRS with aggressive threats if you do not pay immediately, it is a scam artist calling. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by telephone. If you do owe money to the IRS, chances are you have already received some form of a notice or correspondence from the IRS in your mailbox."

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