

Clatsop-Nehalem tribes seek federal OK, again

Chinook Indian Nation says effort derails their attempts to regain status

By NANCY McCARTHY
For The Daily Astorian

A resolution to restore federal recognition of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes is making its way through the U.S. Congress for a second time.

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., introduced the legislation, known as House Resolution 3736, or the Clatsop-Nehalem Restoration

Act on Oct. 9. It was assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee and is expected to go to a subcommittee.

Bonamici introduced a similar resolution last year, but it died in the subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

Diane Collier, chairwoman of the confederated tribes, and Richard Basch, vice chairman, said they are optimistic that the resolution will go through the process this year.

"We were pretty disappointed, but we thought we learned a lot," Basch said of last year's effort. "We're more organized now. It just feels right. It just feels like the time is here."

Federal recognition of the Clatsop-Nehalem Tribes of Oregon was terminated in 1954 when Congress passed the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act. More than 100 tribes

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EO Media Group/File Photo
Dick Basch, vice chairman of the Clatsop-Nehalem tribal council, and Diane Collier, council chairwoman, stand in front of a picture of Chief Tostum, who was once chief of the Clatsops and was Collier's great-great-grandfather.

The sweet life

Tart berries produce tasty memories on century-old bog

Story and photos

By KATHERYN HOUGHTON
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The owner of the Johnson Bog still uses the beater his father designed to rake in cranberries on the land his great-grandmother purchased.

Earlier this month, about 30 people from Iowa to California found their way back to Long Beach for the Johnson Bog celebration of a century of cranberry picking.

"This land has a little bit of everyone who's worked it," David Johnson said from the seat of his father's beater.

The Johnson family reunion has congealed around harvest time.

At the gathering, an IT tech from Silicon Valley raked dirt out of a water pit. A Marine on leave fished out a third group of cranberries with his dad. A young girl sorted sticks from their collection. And a real estate agent captured it all on her Nikon.

The surrounding woods are filled with aimless trails blazed by David Johnson and his siblings, when school vacations meant playing on their grandparents' bog.

Johnson's childhood playground turned into his dream.

"Somewhere along the way of growing up, I realized the practicality of this place," he said. "It's work that you actually see get done. You don't see it as you fertilize, but down the road you see the spots you missed."

Josephine Johnson bought the bog in 1914, soon after she immigrated from Sweden.

"She thought cranberry harvesting would be easy money while her husband fished at sea," Johnson said.

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RIGHT: Stephanie Hall, 13, helps sort the day's collection. Her father, Steve, grew up with the bog's owner, David Johnson, and started helping during harvest time in 1986.



TOP: David Johnson, near left, leads his friends and family in gathering cranberries for the Johnson Bog's 100th harvest.

ABOVE: David Johnson took over the Johnson Bog 11 years ago after his father's death. While he manages the property, Johnson believes his work is only a part of the bog's history, which leads back to his great-grandmother.

Foes pan license to beg

Seaside tables fees to keep panhandlers off the city streets

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — An amendment to a Seaside city ordinance designed to regulate panhandlers, musicians and itinerant merchants got no further Monday night than it had this summer.

"The intent of this is to deal with aggressive panhandling, and to put some controls on street entertainers so they're not blocking traffic or business," Councilor Jay Barber said, but added "I think we can do better than we do here."

"I'm horrified that you would do this," Seaside resident Sam Condron said. "Yes, there's a homeless problem, but it's nationwide. Let's look to the cities that are succeeding, not the ones who are failing."

Vigorous debate

The ordinance, in place since 1984, requires a license to solicit and applies to "a person occupying a temporary fixed location, who promotes, solicits or sells from stock or inventory on hand or displays samples and solicits orders for merchandise in stock."

The amendment seeks to expand the definition to include any person who provides a service "or solicits for any form of compensation or remuneration."

License fees would start at \$50 per day, with a maximum of \$1,000 in a calendar year. Fines would also be increased, from \$500 to \$700.

Mayor Don Larson said that panhandlers with signs in dusk can provide a traffic hazard for drivers.

He also mentioned musicians who blocked traffic on the Prom. "I think they would be more responsive if they had to be licensed," he said.

"Sadly, the panhandlers I'm encountering in Seaside are giving the homeless a bad rap," Barber said. "They are not local people. They are on their way somewhere. They are not hanging around for groceries and food."

Members of the audience

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Tsunami-vulnerable towns grapple with how to save lives

By TERENCE PETTY
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Bracing for a tsunami like the one that devastated Japanese communities during a 2011 mega-earthquake, coastal communities from British Columbia to California have been grappling with how to protect people from a similar catastrophe.

One of those towns is constructing the nation's first structure built as a vertical tsunami refuge.

Two years ago, voters in Westport, Washington and other communities in the school district approved a \$13.8 million bond to build

a new elementary school that would be reinforced to withstand a big earthquake and have a tsunami evacuation area on the gym's rooftop.

"We have no natural high ground," said Paula Akerlund, superintendent of the Ocosta School District, located on a peninsula, noting that they have 20-30 minutes between a quake and a tsunami to get to higher ground. That's "impossible."

The new school is being built on a small ridge, which will put the reinforced roof of the gym above the highest tsunami surge expected by scientists. It is expected to be completed in March.

The devastating 2011



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

People walk on the West Broadway Bridge in Seaside. Up and down the coast of the Pacific Northwest, communities have been intensifying their efforts to protect lives when the region is hit by a killer quake and tsunami, which seismologists say is inevitable.

earthquake and tsunami in Japan was a reminder of a mirror-image threat lurking just off the Pacific Northwest

coast: a 600-mile-long fault that has not produced a major quake since 1700 but could do so any time. The fault is called the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

Progress has been incremental in the region as communities seek funding for expensive projects, examine the most effective means of protecting people and ponder how much they are willing to spend to prepare for a disaster.

A study by the U.S. Geological Survey and university researchers that was published this year shows that of the 94,870 people living in tsunami hazard zones in

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