

Author to recount daring Coast Guard rescue

Maritime museum hosts Michael Tougias for slide presentation

ASTORIA — Author Michael Tougias will appear at the Columbia River Maritime Museum at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 to give a slide show presentation on his book “The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Most Daring Sea Rescue.” The Disney Corporation is making a movie based on the book, which will star Chris Pine and Casey Affleck and be released in January of 2016.

The program is sponsored by the Columbia River Maritime Museum and is included with museum admission. Members are free. The museum is located at 1792 Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-325-2323.

Tougias, co-author of “The Finest Hours,” will use slides of the storm, the sinking tankers, the rescues, the victims, the survivors and the heroes to tell the story of this historic event.

Tougias will describe the harrowing attempts to rescue the seamen, especially focusing on four young Coast Guardsmen who must overcome the odds to save the lives of 32 crewmen stranded aboard the stern of the Pendleton. Standing between the men and their mission were towering waves that reached 70 feet, blinding snow, and one of the most dangerous shoals in the world, the dreaded Chatham Bar. The waters along the outer arm of Cape Cod are called “the graveyard of the Atlantic” for good reason.

“I enjoy doing these programs,” says Tougias, “because I like to transport the audience into the heart of the storm so that they ask themselves, ‘What would I have done?’ I don’t like to do author readings because I think they are boring, but with a slide presentation, the viewer can visually relive the adventure.”

Tougias goes on to say, “This event was — and still is — the greatest and most



Submitted photo by Alison O’Leary

Michael Tougias will give a presentation about his book “The Finest Hours” Jan. 2 in Astoria.

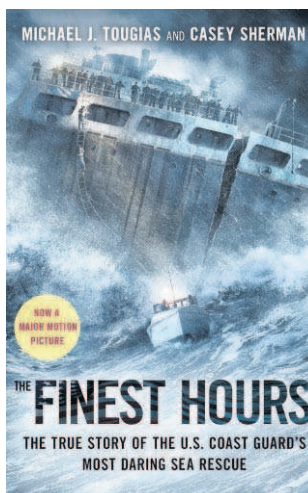
daring sea rescue ever performed by the Coast Guard, and it happened off the New England coast. I felt this episode of heroism and tragedy needed to be told in its entirety because it’s an important piece of overlooked history.”

A book signing will follow the program, and the presentation is suitable for all ages. New York Times bestselling author James Brady (author of “Flyboys” and “Flags of Our Fathers”) says, “‘The Finest Hours’ recounts incredible heroism ... a gripping read.”

“The Finest Hours” has been the No. 4 bestselling non-fiction book in New England according to the New England Booksellers Association.

Tougias is also co-author of “Rescue of the Bounty.” The tall ship Bounty, featured in the Marlon Brando movie “Mutiny on the Bounty,” sank during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The captain and a crewmember perished in the accident, but the Coast Guard performed harrowing helicopter rescues to save the other 14 sailors.

Tougias is the author and coauthor of 24 books includ-



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“The Finest Hours” by Michael Tougias and Casey Sherman.

ing “Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea,” which the Los Angeles Times called “breathtaking ... a marvelous and terrifying tale.” Tougias’ previous book “Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do During the Blizzard of ‘78” received an Editor’s Choice Selection from the American Library Association which selected it as one of the top books of the year.

Book a great getaway with winter reading

It’s time once again for TRL’s Adult Winter Reading Contest

PACIFIC COUNTY, Wash. — It’s January, so it must be time for Timberland Regional Library’s Adult Winter Reading Contest.

Gather up or download all those books you’ve been meaning to read. The more books you read by March 15, the more chances you have to win an overnight getaway for two.

Here’s how it works:

- Between Jan. 1 and March 15, read or listen to a minimum of five books.

- Pick up entry forms — one for every five books you read or listen to — at any Timberland library, or download from the website at www.TRL.org; hover over “Programs”.

- On each form, write the titles, the authors’ names, a brief review of each book, and a ranking of five (excellent) to one (would not recommend).



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Timberland Regional Library invites you to read as many books as possible between Jan. 1 and March 15 as part of the Adult Winter Reading Contest. The more books you read, the better chance you have of winning prizes.

- Turn in the forms at any Timberland library. Each form serves as a contest entry.

You can’t lose with this contest; you’ll have the bliss

of reading great books and you might get to book a great getaway too.

The grand prizes include getaways at local bed & breakfasts and resorts, including the Shelburne Inn, Tokeland Hotel, Lake Quinalt Lodge and Alderbrook Resort & Spa. Other prizes include Adult Winter Reading book bags containing reading material and specialty foods as well as a variety of prizes from local merchants throughout the library district. The grand prize drawing will take place March 20.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older and be current TRL cardholders. Only one grand prize and one local prize per person. TRL employees, Board of Trustees and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter.





Telephone 503.325.4996
Toll Free 888.325.4996
Facsimile 503.325.8350
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The Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa is a luxury boutique hotel built on the former site of a historic cannery 600 feet out into the Mighty Columbia River in Astoria, Oregon. The Hotel offers guests an unparalleled experience in a real working river... with diverse and exciting ship traffic to and from the Pacific Ocean.

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- Clawfoot Tub with views, Terry Robes
- Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- Wine and appetizers each afternoon
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