

Tribal youth follow in snowshoe steps of ancestors

Program aims to build tourism in Indian country

Associated Press

STATELINE, Nevada — Native American youths in northern Nevada did more than listen to lectures and read about the history of their ancestors during the winter break program run by the Washoe Tribe's cultural department.

They strapped on snowshoes they crafted like tribal members did centuries ago and followed their footsteps through a valley south of Lake Tahoe to traditional fishing grounds.

The snowshoe outing was part of the program intended to help engage youth in activities rooted in the Washoe's history, according to the *Tahoe Daily Tribune* newspaper.

"Snowshoeing is something that was a traditional activity for us during the wintertime and really a big part of our ability to survive and cross the Sierras and trade," said Herman Fillmore, culture/language resources director for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

"Today what we try to do a lot of is get our youth out on the land identifying different places and place names using the language, learning about the philosophy and the lay of the land," he told the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

The Washoe called the lake "Da'aw." It was the center of the tribe's world spiritually and geographically. Tribe members spent summers at Lake Tahoe and the rest of the year moving around the lake's basin and surrounding valleys to collect or hunt food like pine nuts, acorns, rabbits and other game.

Every winter for thousands of years, members of the Washoe Tribe



In this Jan. 2 photo, Ashlin Smokey, a member of the Washoe Tribe in northern Nevada, pauses during her first time out on snowshoes on the outskirts of Hope Valley, Calif., southwest of Lake Tahoe. She was among the youths who followed in the footsteps of their ancestors to traditional fishing grounds as part of a cultural program sponsored by the tribe during the winter break.

trekked in their distinctively round snowshoes for several days through Hope Valley and across the Sierra Nevada to the American River along a trail called Peweceli Yewes (peh-weh-tseh-lee yeh-wesh). The salmon they collected from the American River was smoked for preservation and brought back to the rest of the tribe.

"I think getting back out to the land starts to prevent suicide, starts to overcome a lot of the health issues that plague even our children," said Elizabeth Elliot, administrative assistant for the cultural department.

"The programs and the work that the tribe as a whole does is keeping it going but we need more. We lose more kids to the criminal justice system, and we need to have



In this Jan. 2 photo, young members of the Washoe Tribe in northern Nevada display snowshoes they crafted on the outskirts of Hope Valley, Calif., southwest of Lake Tahoe.

"Today what we try to do a lot of is get our youth out on the land."

— Herman Fillmore, Culture/language resources director for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

more prevention."

While many of the children choose to partake in the activities, some are mandated through the tribe's juvenile probation program.

Paula Smith, juvenile probation officer for the Washoe Tribe, said the outdoor programming has made a huge difference in the lives of the youth she works with.

"We are one of the only tribes in the state that has it," Smith said. "When I started four years ago I had 24 kids now I have three because we're doing stuff like this and learning about culture, tradition, and staying busy with positive activities."

The snowshoe trek through Hope Valley was guided by another partner that also sees the importance of empowering the original inhabitants of the region: Hope Valley Outdoors.

John Dayberry, co-owner of the rental and guiding company, has aspirations to train Washoe youth to work as guides so they can share the history and native place names for the peaks and valleys of the region with visitors from around the world.

"What I want to do here is build a model for Indian tourism across the country so the framework that we have starts out with maps and reclaiming place names," Dayberry said. "We need to let the Washoe people tell their story through their language"

— Information from: *Tahoe Daily Tribune*

Officials: Tsunami alert for Oregon Coast is a wake-up call

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

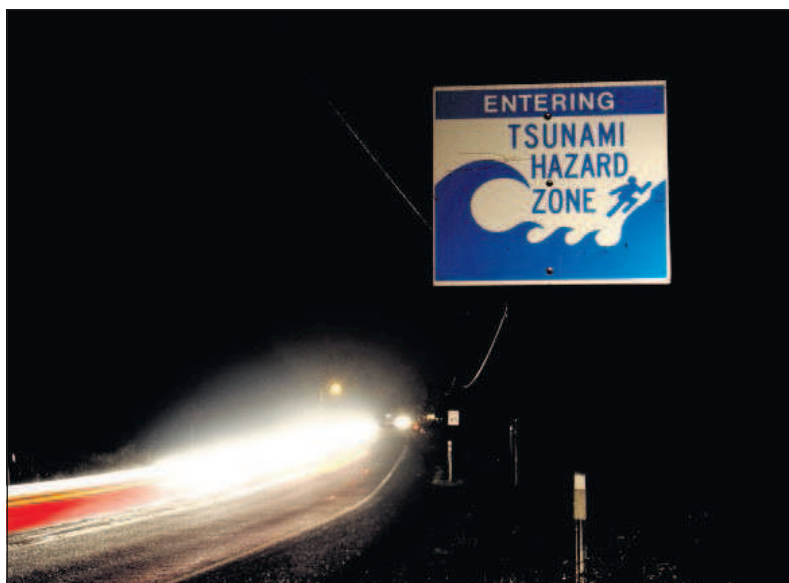
SALEM — When a tsunami watch went out overnight Tuesday via text messages, phone calls and on the radio to residents of the Oregon Coast, most were asleep and oblivious of the potential danger.

That worries emergency managers, who said the 7.9 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Alaska that triggered the alert is a wake-up call. Any tsunami generated by the temblor that struck at 12:32 a.m. would have hit the Oregon Coast hours later, authorities said.

No tidal wave materialized because the quake moved more horizontally instead of up and down, pushing up less water.

"It's a real reminder that these kinds of events can happen at any time," said Althea Rizzo, a tsunami and earthquake specialist with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

In the daytime, people on the Oregon Coast would have had hours to monitor the situation and flee to higher ground if the tsunami watch was escalated. But at night it's easy to sleep through warnings, as many did Tuesday.



In this March 2011 file photo, car headlights form a steady stream of cars as residents evacuate the coastal town of Seaside after tsunami warnings were issued as a result of an earthquake in Japan. The big earthquake off the coast of Alaska triggered a tsunami watch for the Oregon Coast during the predawn hours Jan. 23, 2018, and while no tidal wave materialized, officials said it is a wake-up call.

By the time they became aware of the situation, the all-clear had been given.

It is important for people to sign up for tsunami alerts, and to keep their phones nearby when they go to bed so they can hear them, Rizzo

said. Alerts can also be received on radios that sell for around \$30.

Seaside, about 60 miles northwest of Portland, is considered the most vulnerable Oregon coastal town because so many people live in the inundation zone, far

from high ground. Some residents were fatalistic about a tsunami, not worrying about signing up to receive alerts.

But Sheila Roley, the school district superintendent, said it was a learning experience for her. Overnight, she blocks incoming calls and texts except for people close to her and her leadership team. On Tuesday, she discovered she needed to add the tsunami alerts to her unblocked numbers.

"I met with the leadership team this morning," Roley said in a telephone interview. "Some slept through (the tsunami watch), and by the time people got up at 5 or 6, it had already been canceled."

Seaside is taking the risk of a tsunami so seriously that voters approved a \$100 million bond measure in the November 2016 election to move three schools out of the inundation zone.

A distant earthquake is a risk — a 1964 earthquake off Alaska triggered a tsunami three-stories high that hit Oregon, killing several people.

But an earthquake along the nearby Cascadia subduction zone is even more dangerous, expected to generate a much bigger tsunami with people in inundation zones having only minutes — not hours

— to get to high ground. Coastal residents and visitors can go to <http://nvs.nanoos.org/Tsunami-Evac> to input an address and see if it is in a hazard area.

Jenny Demaris, emergency manager for Lincoln County, which encompasses several coastal population centers including Lincoln City and Newport, said people can sign up for emergency alerts through the county's web page.

"We live, work and play here," Demaris said. "It's important that we're aware of our environment and hazards, and sign up for warnings."

Rizzo said the state doesn't have a tsunami siren system because it would be so expensive and not every coastal area would need to be evacuated in the event of an incoming tsunami. Plus they would often be hard to hear on the stormy coast, she said.

Coincidentally, a large yellow buoy used by the National Weather Service to detect large tsunami waves was discovered Monday on a beach near Yachats.

The National Weather Service in Portland said on Twitter Tuesday that the DART buoy is probably one that broke from its mooring 230 miles west of Astoria on Oct. 4.

BRIEFLY

State observations indicate lower steelhead mortality

ASTORIA (AP) — Gillnet fishermen on the Columbia River may be killing less steelhead while trying to catch other fish, according to preliminary data gathered by Oregon and Washington state observers.

The state observations of the fishermen last year indicated that steelhead mortality may be much lower than the historic rate of about 49 percent, *The Daily Astorian* reported.

The steelhead mortality rate fell between 8 and 24 percent in 2009, 2012 and 2017, said Tucker Jones, ocean salmon Columbia River program manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The rate indicates the percentage of fish that fishermen catch in their nets that are expected to be dead.

The historic rate is based on data collected during test fishing trips and observations in the 1980s and 1990s.

The new data will be presented to regulatory commissions as officials plan for the upcoming fishing seasons on the Columbia River.

"Pending some independent review, our analysis looks like we might have well overestimated the mortality," said Bill Tweit, assistant to the director for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

While the lower mortality rate could be good news for fishermen, some were cited last year after refusing to allow state observers to board their vessels. The fishermen said they refused due to concerns and confusion about safety and liability.

Jim Wells, president of the commercial fishing

advocacy organization Salmon For All, said he allowed an observer on board for the first fishing period, but refused during the third. He said the water was rough that night, and he thought it wasn't safe.

Oregon State Police charged Wells for the violation, but a court later lowered it to a citation with a \$225 fine.

2018 Capitol Christmas Tree to come from Oregon

SALEM (AP) Oregon — America's top Christmas tree producing state — will be providing a tree next Christmas for the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

And the tree will come from the Sweet Home Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service announced Friday. It's an honor for the national forest and the state, said Willamette National Forest spokesman Scott Owen.

"When the tree is selected and cut down at the beginning of November, it will make a trip throughout Oregon," he said.

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation team up to provide the National Christmas Tree, another outdoor Christmas tree that goes on display annually in D.C. near the White House.

The Capitol Christmas Tree will come from Oregon for only the second time overall and the first time in 16 years, according to Choose Outdoors, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization running the program. In 2002, the Umpqua National Forest supplied the tree, a Douglas fir.

The headquarters of the Willamette National Forest is in Springfield. Forest officials will enlist the public's help to find the perfect tree.

It must be about 70 feet tall and along a forest road so cranes and a truck can reach it to bring it down and haul it away. "It has to obviously have the shape of a good Christmas tree," said Bruce Ward, president and founder of Choose Outdoors.

The Capitol Christmas Tree will be cut in November. Organizers plan to have the tree's route to Washington, D.C. follow part of the Oregon Trail in reverse. Before the tree leaves Oregon in November, a "modern-day wagon train" will haul it around the state for a series of events, according to the Forest Service.

Ward was in Oregon this week, setting up sponsorship agreements with a trucking outfit and other companies to help with the tree.

The tree will go on display in December on the west lawn of the Capitol Building. Another 70 smaller Christmas trees will be cut on the district as well to decorate Congressional offices and other federal buildings.

The Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association listed Oregon as having the largest Christmas tree harvest in 2016, followed by North Carolina and Michigan.

The Forest Service has provided a Capitol Christmas Tree since 1970, with each of the agency's nine regions taking turns to provide the tree. Region 6 covers Oregon and Washington. The past two times the region provided a tree, in 2006 and 2013, it came from Washington, according to Choose Outdoors.

Sending a tree to D.C. gives Oregonians a chance to share some of the state's beauty, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement.

SKI REPORT

Spout Springs
Tollgate, Ore.
CLOSED FOR SEASON

Anthony Lakes
North Powder, Ore.
New snow: 6"
Base depth: 10"
Conditions: Close to 20" this week, more snow forecast

Ski Bluewood
Dayton, Wash.
New snow: 9"
Base depth: 45"
Conditions: 27" this week, heavy powder and machine groomed

Ski Fergi
Joseph, Ore.
New snow: 4"
Base depth: Unknown
Conditions: Ungroomed Saturday

Mt. Hood Meadows
Government Camp, Ore.
New snow: 5"
Base depth: 10"
Conditions: 64" is super-smooth packed powder. Off piste is powder and skier-packed powder.