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Siuslaw News



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Storm damage requires change to Peace Hike

YACHATS — On Dec. 18, the Amanda Trail Bridge and Amanda statue, which were to be the destination for the sixth annual Yachats New Year's Day Peace Hike, were washed out following several weeks of heavy rain and storms. Due to the continuing instability and dangerous conditions of the area, this section of the Amanda Trail is now closed indefinitely to all hikers and visitors while the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department determines next steps for a recovery plan.

As a result, previously announced plans for the Peace Hike have changed. If weather and trail conditions permit, there will be an alternative hike of about 3.5 miles round trip from the Yachats Commons (441 N. Highway 101 in Yachats) to the 804 Trail, Ya'Xaik Trail, Gerdemann Botanical Preserve and back.

All other related activities, including the traditional Peace Ceremony, will now take place at the Yachats Commons rather than the Amanda Grotto.

Anyone wanting to participate should meet at the Commons at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016.

Yachats Mayor Ron Brean will introduce Doc Slyter, Elder, Tribal Flutist and Tribal Council member for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) who will tell the story of Amanda, a blind woman forced to leave her young daughter and march barefoot through rocky terrain to the Alsea Sub-agency internment camp in Yachats in 1864.

It is through the Tribes' and community's endeavors with the Amanda Trail that many people have become more



COURTESY PHOTO

Storms have washed out sections of Amanda's Trail and part of the Peace Hike route.

aware of the great need to acknowledge the wrongs of the past; and to be more conscious of the need to treat people of all cultures throughout the world with honor, dignity and respect.

Though the fate of the missing Amanda statue is uncertain at this time, her spirit and story remain resilient and will be celebrated this day.

Participants will then gather at the covered shelter behind the Commons where a ceremonial fire will be it and the group will have the opportunity to contemplate and offer blessings for peace in the new year.

During the ceremony, Native

American flute music will be provided by Doc Slyter and Mary Beth Nickel.

Weather and trail conditions permitting, participants are then invited to hike the 804 Trail north to the Ya'Xaik Trail, on to the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve Public Footpath and back to the Commons — approximately a 3.5 mile trip.

The route is mostly level but there are several steep steps and inclines along the Ya'Xaik section of the trail. Those not wishing to hike may remain at the Commons where entertainment will be provided until hikers return. At that time all par-

ticipants will complete the Peace Ceremony at the fire then join together in the Commons to share food, music and camaraderie.

In addition there will be informative displays and presentations by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the U.S. Forest Service, CTCLUSI, View the Future, the Yachats Trails Committee, Coastal Gems Volkswalkers, and artists who have produced and will auction work about Amanda and the Amanda Trail.

Participants may also then collect their 2016 commemorative event pin, which was creat-

ed by the Siuslaw National Forest 2014 Artist-in-Residence, Margie Lopez Reid.

For those interested in learning more about Yachats area trails and hiking opportunities, a comprehensive list of area trails with links to maps and other information can be found from the Yachats Chamber of Commerce website at www.yachats.org/Yachats_Area_Trails_Maps.html.

Printed brochures are also available at the Yachats Visitors Center.

For more information, contact Lauralee Svendsgaard at 541-547-3640.

STEP from 1B

later this month. Once it is open and "fishing," club volunteers make the trip to Whittaker Creek three times a week to work the trap, counting and spawning the steelhead that come through.

The club's efforts create the winter steelhead fishery on the Siuslaw River. Each year, volunteers live spawn steelhead, collecting over 250,000 eggs, which begin life at the hatchery in Florence.

Most are transferred to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hatcheries and raised to smolt stage.

Approximately 100,000 hatchery-raised steelhead, raised from eggs collected last winter will be returned to the Siuslaw River basin in the spring.

For more information, call Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

More than 250,000 salmon eggs are fertilized each year as part of STEP's salmon program.



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