

Tsunami scare a wake-up call

No local alert was issued

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

After a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in Alaska prompted a tsunami watch for the Oregon Coast in the wee hours Tuesday, Jan. 23, Clatsop County Emergency Management Director Tiffany Brown started getting questions about why her office did not issue a local alert.

A tsunami watch means there is the potential for a surge to happen but does not require immediate action. This differs from a tsunami warning, which calls for imminent evacuation, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Confusion about the difference prompted a flood of emergency calls to Seaside and Astoria dispatch centers. Management at Camp 18 restaurant on U.S. Highway 26 reported seeing more than 40 cars of people trying to evacuate in their parking lot at 4 a.m.

Brown is the administrator for the local emergency system, which can send messages to anyone signed up through ClatsopALERTS! to their landlines, cellphones or emails. Many factors, including the time of day and severity of the earthquake, guided her decision not to issue an alert.

Brown said that if the federal alert had occurred during daytime hours, her office would have likely followed up with some clarification locally and used the experience as an educational tool. Because the tsunami watch was issued at 3 a.m., and the magnitude and characteristics of the earthquake did not cause immediate concern, she said it did not make sense to wake people up.

"People don't always understand where an alert is coming from. The alert was issued by NOAA from one

Watch, not advisory or warning

Tsunami Warnings, Watches, Advisories, Information Statements: What's the Difference?

Type of Message	What it means	What you should do
Warning	Dangerous coastal flooding & powerful currents possible	Move to high ground or inland
Advisory	Strong currents & waves dangerous to those in/very near water possible	Stay out of water, away from beaches & waterways
Watch	Distant tsunami possible	Stay tuned for information. Be prepared to act.
Information Statement	No threat or very distant event & threat not determined	Relax

SEASIDE PIO

Chart shows different warning threats.

Seaside Signal

Seaside's Dispatch Center received 107 non-emergency line phone calls and 10 911 calls after a tsunami watch.

At about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck 174 miles off Kodiak, Alaska. This immediately triggered a tsunami watch, not an advisory or a warning, for coastal areas from northern Washington to southern California, including Seaside, the city's Public Information Officer Jon Rahl said.

Had this watch risen to the levels of advisory or warning, direct messaging — including use of the city's tsunami warning system — would have alerted residents

and visitors by using Nixle alerts, alarm towers, social media channels, among potential ways of reaching the public, Rahl said.

The dispatch center was carefully monitoring the event, he added. "If the event had risen to a level where tsunami wave actions were imminent for our area, the system would have pushed out messaging indicating as such."

By definition, a "watch" means there is the potential for an event to happen and details are still unknown. Next on the scale is an "advisory" which means strong currents and waves have been noted. A "warning" addresses the final level of notification which indi-

of the U.S. tsunami centers, which was very general," Brown said. "On the backside, I'm getting more alerts from NOAA that are more granular — where the danger is anticipated, where it is expected to hit, which at the time the Hawaiian Islands were the concern. But if you boil it down to a broad, surface-level message, all you see is 'Ah! Tsunami warning!'"

Between the false alarm tsunami sirens issued by Seaside and a false missile alert

in Hawaii this month, Brown said being judicious is even more important to avoid panic.

"There was nothing to warn people about," Brown said. "There's enough uncertainty around the system. Between Seaside and Hawaii, this is really bringing mass notification systems to the forefront."

None of the cities in Clatsop County decided to issue any tsunami alerts Tuesday, for similar reasons as Brown.

Where to sign up

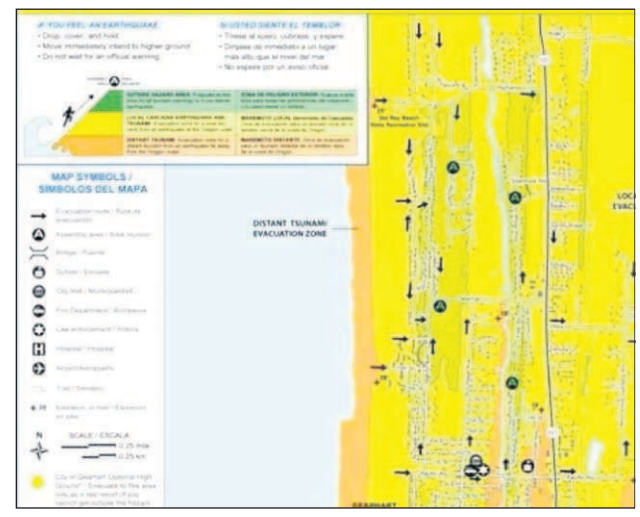
In future events, Brown and Benedict recommend people follow local sources of information and the National Weather Service before calling 911.

• **Sign up for alerts** at www.co.clatsop.or.us/em/page/clatsopalerts

• **To sign up for local Nixle alerts**, text 888777 and type in your ZIP code. Follow the Seaside Police Department, City of Seaside and Seaside Fire on Facebook. National Weather Service alerts can be received by visiting weather.gov/alerts.

icates that dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are likely or imminent.

To sign up for local Nixle alerts, text 888777 and type in your ZIP code. Follow the Seaside Police Department, City of Seaside and Seaside Fire on Facebook. National Weather Service alerts can be received by visiting weather.gov/alerts.



Tsunami evacuation map.

Gearhart responds to tsunami threat

Seaside Signal

City Administrator Chad Sweet and Police Chief Bowman were alerted of a possible threat and arrived at Gearhart City Hall around 2 a.m. on Jan. 23, Mayor Matt Brown said in a city blog post.

They began their emergency protocols and got their call lists together ready to go all the while monitoring the situation closely out of Alaska, Brown said. From the information available they determined there was

no credible threat for a tsunami here.

Seaside and Gearhart's warning sirens are a connected system and the Seaside emergency managers determined there was no threat to the area and decided not to sound the alarms. The city continued to monitor the situation in case any information changed.

At around 3:30 to 4 a.m., the USGS lifted the advisory warning. Staff left city hall at approximately 5:30 a.m. after it was determined there was no emergency.

DINING on the NORTH COAST

Great Restaurants in:
GEARHART SEASIDE CANNON BEACH



NATIONALLY FAMOUS CLAM CHOWDER • FRESH OREGON SEAFOOD

Mo's RESTAURANTS

CANNON BEACH

503-436-1111

Ocean Front at Tolovana Park

www.moschowder.com

WANNA KNOW WHERE THE LOCALS GO?

RILEY'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

• Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

• Lighter appetite menu • Junior menu

BEST BREAKFAST IN TOWN!

Fish 'n Chips • Burgers • Seafood & Steak

Friday & Saturday - Prime Rib

Lounge Open Daily 9-Midnight

All Oregon Lottery products available

1104 S Holladay • 503-738-9701 • Open Daily at 8am

MAZATLAN MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Phone 503-738-9678

1445 S. Roosevelt Drive • Seaside

Excellence in family dining found from a family that has been serving the North Coast for the past 52 years

PIG 'N PANCAKE

Great Breakfast, but that's not all... • Great lunch and dinner menu, too! • Great pasta, steaks & seafood! • Homemade Clam Chowder, Salads!

Seaside • 323 Broadway • 738-7234 (Open 7 Days)

Cannon Beach • 223 S. Hemlock 436-2851 (7am-3pm Daily)

Astoria • 146 W. Bond • 325-3144

OBITUARIES

Willard Asseri Ivanoff Commercial fisherman Aug. 11, 1932 — Jan. 3, 2018

Willard Asseri Ivanoff, 85, a lifelong resident of Astoria, Oregon, died Jan. 3, 2018, at Oregon Health and Science University Hospital in Portland. Mr. Ivanoff was born Aug. 11, 1932, in Astoria, to Asseri and Aina Linnea Aspfors Ivanoff.

On March 25, 1957, he married the beautiful love of his life, Susan Califf, in Astoria, Oregon.

Mr. Ivanoff lived in Astoria his entire life, and was a son of first generation Finnish immigrants who migrated from the upper Midwest. He was a lifelong commercial fisherman, which took him many places including Alaska, Oregon, Washington and California, pursuing multiple species of commercial catch.

He grew up in the throes of World War II, and served proudly in the Army during the Korean War. Although the war ended before he was called to the front, he was an extremely patriotic individual who always made a point to show his support for veterans and all branches of the armed forces. He had several missions late in life that can't be divulged, but the people involved know, and witnessed an amazing navigator able to find remote places in the middle of the night.

Willard was an avid outdoorsman who loved to dig razor clams, fish for anything that swam, and hunted his entire life. Some of his most memorable hunts were moose hunting in the Yukon after driving to Alaska, and then boating approximately 700 miles down

the river and its pristine tributaries, as well as multiple moose trips to Canada.

Willard loved life and all that it had to offer, including his wife, family, friends, and dogs, and he was loved in return. He will be deeply missed at lunch time, but good for the pocketbooks of many. As most know, cribbage was his favorite game. Willard had many entertaining stories of his long and adventure-filled life, and he kept his marvelous sense of humor to the very end. He will be remembered for his welcoming and generous personality.

Willard's lifelong partner, Susan, passed away in 2011. He was also preceded in death by his brothers,

Robert Ivanoff and Bill Ivanoff; and son-in-law, Steven Jacobson. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Glenda Ivanoff; a sister-in-law, Nancy Johnson; his four children, Susie, Renee, John, and Thor; two daughters-in-law, Katrina and Janelle; son-in-law, Bob Seppa; and grandchildren, David (Cally) Jacobson, Michelle (Matt) Spohn, Emily and Jeremy Jacobson, Kelsey and Zachary Seppa, and Annika and Addison Ivanoff.

There will be a tribute for a life well lived on June 3, at 1 p.m. at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Astoria High School Scholarship Fund and Clatsop Post 12 American Legion in Astoria.

Fred Wayne Cole Todo Santos, Mexico Jan. 11, 1959 — Dec. 24, 2017

Fred Wayne Cole, 66, of Todo Santos, Mexico, passed away on Dec. 24, 2017. Born Jan. 11, 1959, in Seaside, Oregon, he was the fifth of seven children born to Mary and Roy Cole.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, and is survived by his siblings, Shirleen Hutchens, Diane Schafer, Jim Cole, Pat Boehm, Judy Knapp, and Roger Cole; 14 nieces and nephews; and 10 grand-nieces and nephews.

Fred graduated from Seaside High School in 1969, then took a few classes at Portland State. He then headed to Alaska for several seasons of fishing. He came back to the Seaside area to log in both Clatsop County and in Forks, Washington. Fred later drove a produce

truck, assisted in carpentry work, was a commercial clam digger, and worked as a handyman and a caretaker for the elderly. He managed the Holliday Apartments for his family.

Fred was a faithful son, brother, and friend. Ellen and Sandra were special fiends in his life.

Fred had retired to Todo Santos in 2013, and enjoyed the warm weather, fishing, and the wonderful area. Fred was a quiet, kind, and generous man who will be missed by his family and many friends in Todo Santos.

Any memorials may be sent to the local animal rescue. A celebration of life has already been held.

Olive ridley turtle dies

Seaside Signal

Driven by cold weather to the Oregon Coast, a female olive ridley sea turtle found stranded on Sunset Beach near Fort Stevens State Park failed to survive, staff at the Oregon Coast Aquarium reported.

Andrew Pittard, a long-time friend of Seaside Aquarium staff, found the stranded turtle on Saturday, Jan. 27. He contacted staff member Tiffany Boothe, who met Pittard at Sunset Beach.

Oregon Coast Aquarium Curator of Fish and Invertebrates Evonne Mochon-Collura met Boothe halfway between Newport and Seaside to receive the turtle. Oregon Coast Aquarium staff found the turtle's body temperature at 54 degrees, then administered fluids and cleaned the wound. Despite efforts, the turtle died Monday morning.

Oregon State University will perform a necropsy to determine exact cause of death and for data collection. Often in long-term cold-stun cases, the organs are compromised beyond repair, Ocean Coast Aquarium staff said.

MEMORIALS

Today
JENKINS, Mary Evelyn — Visitation from 1 to 5 p.m., Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave., Astoria.

Saturday, Feb. 3
JENKINS, Mary Evelyn — Funeral at 11 a.m., Caldwell's Mortuary Chapel, 1165 Franklin Ave., Astoria. Burial follows at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.