

Unusual News

Bigfoot sightings in Oregon?

By: Taylor Parker
TALISMAN REPORTER
SILVERTON, Ore. — What has two feet, stretches more than seven-feet tall and is covered in hair? And no, the answer isn't Steven Adams of the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team. Bigfoot and American, Sasquatch, has long roamed the American forests. Although primarily associated with the Pacific Northwest, there have been hundreds of accounts across the nation, and even across the world. In Asia, the equivalent of Bigfoot is Yeti, or the Abominable Snowman. In Australia, it's Yowie and in Mongolia, it's Almas. In the American South, Bigfoot is referred to as Skunk Ape, and in Ohio as The Grassman. Canadians call him Wendigo, and in Sumatra there is said to be a smaller, evolved version named Orang Pendek. There is even a scientific name for Bigfoot: Gigantopithecus. Researchers and sci-

"It was the biggest thing ive ever scene!" -Rob Dulley

entists of Gigantopithecus have collected hundreds of the species' teeth and several jaws in China, Vietnam and India. Accounts of Sasquatch sightings were testified as early as the 1840s given by separate reports from Indians and Missionaries, and there are still sightings being reported to this day, but more so by hikers, backpackers and the Bigfoot Field Researchers (BFR). In their research, the BFR says that the most Bigfoot sightings occurrences have been in Oregon (227 sightings), California (425 sightings) and Washington (528 sightings). This makes sense considering the dense amount of forestry for Bigfoot to hide-out. With respect to the amount of sightings,

it is not surprising that three in 10 Americans believe that Bigfoot exists. Junay Johanson, an Oregon resident of 16 years, has been documenting Bigfoot sightings on a poster in the Silver Falls County Store she and her husband have owned for four years. The store doubles as a restaurant that is home of the Sasquatch Burger. "Most of the dots that are on the map, the red and the blue ones, if you get on the Bigfoot Research Organizations website, they have all of the Bigfoot sightings that have been reported to that site by state, and so all of those I just plotted on off of that map," Johanson said. "The green and the yellow ones are ones that were reported to us off of our Bigfoot book that we used to have, and those were the ones that are yellow and green on there." Johanson kept a record of sightings in a book with first-hand descriptions and ac-

counts of those who had seen Bigfoot in the area. "The book was stolen about a year and a half ago," she said. "There used to be a lot of people up here looking for Bigfoot, but now that whole area is cut off from people going up there because we are a hazard. Now you have to have a permit to go up on their property." Although Johanson no longer has access to the original book, she started a new one that already has several accounts of Bigfoot sightings. Variations on Bigfoot have been spotted on

every continent except Antarctica. When passing through the Pacific coast, it is evident to a visitor that Bigfoot is not taken lightly. Souvenir shops are filled with T-shirts, coffee mugs and Oregon-shaped stickers with a figure of Bigfoot. Rumors of Bigfoot being spotted in the area are sure signs that residents of the Northwest believe in his (or her) existence. Junay Johanson keeps her Sasquatch footprint in her store. The size of the footprint is the equivalent to a US men's



Man sculps bigfoot foot

"Not your normal race!"

By: Taylor Parker
TALISMAN REPORTER
NORTHEAST PORTLAND, Ore. - Thousands of naked bicyclists are soon expected to fill Normandale Park in Northeast Portland, which

is the meeting place for this year's upcoming World Naked Bike Ride. But some neighbors are not happy about it. "Kids can't go to strip clubs," said Jean Marshburn, who lives near-

by. "It's kind of the same thing, I guess. They should probably go someplace else because there are a lot of kids around. It's kind of like an adult activity." Other neighbors feel differently. "As long as it's just a non-sexual thing I don't see any problem with it," said James Harrison, a father who also lives close by. "I don't think there's anything to be ashamed (of) about male or female nudity. "More than 8,000 people showed up for last year's ride, which started off at the South Park Blocks in Southwest Portland. "The ride is a lighthearted pro-



Bickers train to prepare for the unusual race.

Haunted Toys "R" Us?

By: Taylor Parker
TALISMAN REPORTER
Deb, who has worked in the store since 1993, says that the store is definitely haunted. In the stock room above the electronics section banging noises can be heard and things seem to move out of the corner of your eye. Once she was standing in the electronics section and heard magazines flipping, she went over to the racks and saw them just falling off of the rack. No one else was around. She originally lived in San Jose and worked at the Toys "R" Us on Winchester Boulevard; she said that that Toys "R" Us

also had strange happenings. Jill, who has been working there since 2001, was closing up one night with a co-worker named Ben. They heard the overhead making beeping noises with music playing. They both left quickly afterwards. She heard a story about three women working as an overnight crew, they heard voices coming from the woman's bathroom, but there was no one in there. Ranger Kat Gans, our guide on the popular Discovery Tour, tells us we are in the heart of the Oregon Caves National Monument

Oregon Caves

By: Taylor Parker
TALISMAN REPORTER
We are in the middle of one of the Siskiyou Mountains, the River Styx flowing beneath the grated platform upon which we stand. We have crouched — cave-walk style — along the narrow passageway to enter the Imagination Room, taking care not to hit our heads against ancient, dripping marble formations. Already we've come through the Petrified Gardens and the Belly of the Whale, where marble ridges curve down both sides of the cave walls like the two sides of a giant rib cage. Ranger Kat Gans, our guide on the popular Discovery Tour, tells us we are in the heart

of the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve here in the Imagination Room. She shines her flashlight beam onto a cartoonish white heart on the cave ceiling, and on another white formation shaped like a human heart, both formed from moon milk. "It's the only spot in the cave where you'll see moon milk," she reveals, "formed by a bacterial colony growing here." The colony has not been active for quite some time, but it's left other formations in its wake. When Gans points them out — The Cat Stuck in the Drainpipe, The Old Man Who Lives in the Cave — we laugh, welcoming comic relief.



Cave entrance

After all, we have just emerged from the absolute darkness Gans had plunged us into with the flip of a light switch. "This is about as far in the cave that Elijah Davidson got," Gans had explained about the mountain man who discovered the caves in 1874. He'd entered it to search for his dog in chase after a bear. "This is about as far as he got when he used up his

Best stargazing spots in Oregon

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points them out — The Cat Stuck in the Drainpipe, The Old Man Who Lives in the Cave — we laugh, welcoming comic relief. After all, we have just emerged from the absolute darkness Gans had plunged us into with the flip of a light switch. "This is about as far in the cave that Elijah Davidson got," Gans had explained about the mountain man who discovered the caves in 1874. He'd entered it to search for his dog in chase after a bear. "This is about as far as he got when he used up his last match." In such darkness, the river sounds clear as a bell. Sharing a moment of silence, we



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last match." In such darkness, the river sounds clear as a bell. Sharing a moment of silence, we think we see shapes and shadows simply not there. It's the Bigfoot pg.2

size 24. A copy of the book that contains the sightings is next to the footprint for reference. With numerous accounts, the question is, is Bigfoot actually what he is, or simply a myth similar to that of Scotland's Loch Ness Monster? There are several theories of what, or who, Bigfoot is, and how he ended up in America. Some think he followed humans across the Bering Land Bridge into Russia and Alaska many years ago. Others believe that survival of the fittest and natural selection is what kept Bigfoot alive, and that his near extinction is the reason he is in hiding. Zhao LingXia of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his colleagues analyzed carbon isotopes in a sample of Gigantopithecus teeth. According to Erin Wayman, writer for the Smithsonian magazine, Zhao said that "The rise of the Tibetan plateau 1.6 million years ago National Monument altered the climate and Preserve here

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