

Seminar on meth prevention

As part of the Warm Springs community's effort to curb the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse, recovering tribal members, law enforcement and concerned members of another Oregon tribe will speak at a meeting at the Simnasho Longhouse on Wednesday, March 8.

The evening meeting, which includes dinner, will be in three parts. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. with Washat, with dinner immediately following. The program begins following opening prayer at 6:30 p.m. The first part of the program includes comments from tribal members who have successfully come through treatment or methamphetamine abuse and have returned to the community.

"We'd like maybe two or three people to tell their story, what sustains them and their solace," said Charlotte Herkshan, of the Community Counseling Center.

She said the tribal members continue to overcome the challenges of stopping their use of meth and are "functionally employed in the community." Some are doing what she called "reciprocity work," as a means of giving back to the community. These members have been off meth for at least a year.

"And then we want a couple people who are early into their sobriety, who want to talk about

how hard it is," Herkshan said.

Officers from the Warm Springs Police Department will demonstrate what community members can look for in their homes, in their neighborhoods, or even workplaces, for their own awareness or to provide the police with tips on where meth may be used or sold.

Members of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will then present how a RezWatch unit is being organized there.

On the following Friday, March 10, the visiting tribal members from Umatilla plan to meet with leaders from Warm Springs at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Casino and Resort to follow up the Wednesday meeting. They plan to work toward developing an alliance to help each other control the problem of methamphetamine use in their communities.

Herkshan said she plans to help organize other upcoming meetings on the issue, including one to address medications that have been introduced to help reduce the desire to use methamphetamine. Herkshan said she hoped citizens in individual districts are aware of what signs to look for in their own neighborhoods. The March 8 seminar will be a good place to learn more about the problem, she said.

— By Brian Mortensen

News from around the state

Forest sale targets land throughout Oregon

THE DALLES (AP) — The Bush administration plan to sell off 300,000 acres of public land is expected to include more than 10,000 acres in Oregon — from a parking lot in The Dalles to land in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Forest Service officials say the sales in dozens of states are needed to raise \$800 million over the next five years to pay for schools and roads in rural counties hurt by logging cutbacks on federal land. Congress would have to approve the land sales, and some Western lawmakers have already criticized the plan, saying the short-term gains would be offset by the perma-

nent loss of public lands.

If approved, it would be the largest sale of forest land in decades. Most of the lands being considered for sale are isolated chunks, separated from national forests. Many were candidates for land exchanges to help consolidate federal land holdings in contiguous forests. In Oregon, 10,568 acres could be sold to the highest bidder, and in Washington, 7,516 acres.

In Oregon, there's little pattern to the lands potentially up for sale. One parcel, at six-tenths of an acre, sits in the middle of a former grocery store parking lot in The Dalles. It is an oddity of the national forest system,

owned at one time by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, then transferred to the U.S. Forest Service. Another site, of five acres, is being farmed on a bluff above the Sandy and Columbia rivers in eastern Multnomah County. More are scattered through Oregon forests and high deserts from the Medford area to the Walla Walla Mountains.

In the Columbia River Gorge, most of the nearly 700 acres are on the Washington side of the river, including one 160-acre parcel and a 320-acre parcel across the Columbia and slightly downriver from the mouth of the Deschutes River.

Judge in salmon case convinced fish can be saved

PORTLAND (AP) — The man holding the Bush administration's feet to the fire on restoring Columbia Basin salmon, even if it means breaching some hydroelectric dams, doesn't like to eat the Northwest's signature fish.

U.S. District Judge James Redden finds it too oily, unless it has been barbecued in the Indian fashion on planks around an open fire.

At 78, he doesn't consider himself much of a salmon fisherman, though he cast spinners into the Rogue River in the 1950s.

But in finding the Bush administration's latest attempt to protect cheap hydroelectric power from the demands of

restoring the Northwest's depleted salmon runs violated the Endangered Species Act, Redden sees himself as part of a "thin black line" of the judiciary that protects the public from the excesses of government.

Sitting in his downtown office high above the Willamette River, about 10 miles from its confluence with the Columbia, Redden spoke of saving salmon.

"I'm convinced it can be done," he said. "I think it can be done without breaching the dams. And it may mean that someday they will be. Until then you're going to follow the law and save the salmon."

Redden's background has prepared him well for making tough

decisions, said Judge Alfred T. Goodwin of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, who presided as a trial judge over cases Redden argued as a young lawyer. Goodwin compared Redden's "impressive" resume to that of retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"She had the common sense that comes from running around the sagebrush chasing calves. Jim has this same kind of common sense. He's worked with people in a great variety of capacities. And he understands the political system and the tension that operates between the power of the government and the rights of the governed."

FBI allowed to withhold some documents in Peltier case

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The FBI can keep secret a handful of documents in the case of imprisoned American Indian activist Leonard Peltier in the interest of national security, a judge ruled, rejecting efforts by Peltier supporters for a glimpse at the 30-year-old records.

U.S. District Judge William Skretny issued the decision after reviewing some of the pages in private as part of a Freedom of Information request by attorneys fighting to have Peltier's conviction overturned. He was convicted in Fargo, N.D., in 1977, and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

Peltier is serving a life sentence in the deaths of two FBI agents during a 1975 standoff on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Attorney Michael Kuzma said Monday he planned to appeal Skretny's ruling. "I'm disappointed but not shocked," Kuzma said.

Peltier supporters have taken legal action to collect more than 100,000 pages of FBI documents from field offices nationwide which they say should have been turned over to Peltier lawyers at the time of his trial or following a Freedom of Information request filed soon after.

The FBI released nearly 800 pages of material in 2004, but withheld others, citing exemptions allowed under the Freedom of Information Act for national security concerns and to protect the identity of agents and confidential sources.

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