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Seekseequa election is Monday

The Seekseequa District voters will elect two Tribal Council members on Monday, April 30. District members can cast their ballots at the Community Center between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

There are 230 voters of the Seekseequa District.

The results of the election will be posted on Tuesday, May 1.

Honor Seniors Day on May 11

Honor Seniors Day in Warm Springs is set for Friday, May 11 at the Agency Longhouse. The popular event draws hundreds of visitors to the reservation for a day of activities, good food, and visiting with friends.

The theme of Honor Seniors Day this year is, "A Dream Come True."

The event is hosted by the Warm Springs Seniors Department, which is currently looking for contributions for Honor Seniors Day.

The department is also seeking volunteers to help with the many tasks involved in the event. For information call the Seniors Department at 553-3313, or stop by the office at 2331 High Lookee St.

Groups challenge salmon protection

(AP) — Private property, farm and development groups asked a federal judge last week to lift Endangered Species Act protections from all threatened and endangered salmon across the West, arguing that the government failed to count fish spawned in hatcheries.

The federal government and conservation groups countered that the Endangered Species Act requires consideration of the best available science, which clearly indicates that depending on fish raised in hatcheries to boost salmon numbers will, over the long run, harm fish that spawn naturally in rivers.

U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan gave no indication when he might rule on the case, or how he might rule.

The lawsuit builds on Hogan's 2001 ruling that NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency in charge of restoring dwindling salmon populations, violated the Endangered Species Act when it put wild and hatchery fish in the same group, known as an evolutionarily significant unit, or ESU, but then protected only the wild fish. The ruling led to lifting threatened species status for the Oregon coastal coho.

The plaintiffs want the court to lift threatened and endangered species listings for all 16 protected populations of salmon in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California.

If they win, some restrictions on logging, irrigation and urban development could eventually be lifted around the West.

Several salmon populations are protected in the Seattle and Portland metropolitan areas. Irrigation water was shut off to farms in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California in 2001 to provide enough water for threatened coho salmon in the Klamath River during a drought. Many timber sales on national forests have been blocked to protect salmon.



Katelyn Tanewasha (above) was among the youth of the Early Childhood Education Center (others pictured below) who gathered at the Agency Longhouse April 20 for a mini powwow. The event was hosted by Child Protective Services. According to Rebekah Main, director of CPS, they chose to host the powwow in order to "get families together and have fun."

In addition, Main said, they hoped to provide education and awareness to the community for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

This Friday, April 27 at 10 a.m. the Early Childhood Education Center will host its annual parade from the ECE building to the Agency Longhouse and back.



Leslie Mitts photos

Visions of the West opens Friday

Celena Gilbert is opening a new shop at the Warm Springs Plaza across from the Museum at Warm Springs.

Her shop is called Visions of the West. The grand opening is this Friday, April 27.

Visions of the West is a Western style retail store, with clothes, artwork, magazines and other items of the Western theme.

Gilbert said her dream for the past few years has been to open her own shop, but with limited business space available, she put the idea on hold until now.

"I can't wait to do business with all those who celebrate the Western

lifestyle of the cowboy and cowgirl way," she said.

Gilbert said she soon will have horse and rodeo items such as saddles, ropes, spurs and tack in the store.

She is also inviting local artists of the reservation to bring their work to the store for display.

"Native Americans," Gilbert said, "truly hold the spirit of the West and the way it was back when."

The hours of business of Visions of the West are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Council hears plan for positive change

By Maren Cohn
Warm Springs Ventures

The group involved in putting together a plan for improving tribal administration delivered its completed report to Tribal Council earlier this month.

A second team awaits Council's go-ahead to present the corresponding report on economic strategy.

Both groups got started last fall when a nearly full and unanimous Council issued several directives asking for reports on reservation issues.

From the administrative team, Council requested advice on management structure, policy development, service to members, and obtaining better performance and results.

The economic strategy group was to evaluate a number of projects and policies and report back with specific recommendations.

Council embarked on the restructuring efforts as part of its response to the membership survey and its desire to improve administrative effectiveness, promote growth of tribal revenues and employment, and strengthen political leadership through improvements in governance.

The tribal economy

The Council meeting regarding the improvement plan opened with recognition of the many tribal members and organizations, along with outside universities and professional firms, who have participated in the process.

Over 25 individual tribal members and ten tribal organizations have had a hand in the evaluation and review of the reservation's administration and economy.

Clyde Hamstreet, who helped coordinate the projects, introduced the overall report by emphasizing how the administration and the economy, along with the third element of trusted and effective leadership, work together in moving the Tribe towards its vision of the future.

Hamstreet set up a surveyor's tripod to illustrate his point. Each leg of the tripod stood for one of three essential structures that support a community: economy, government, and leadership.

"No one or even two of these institutions, standing alone," he said, "can fully achieve the community's vision. Like the three legs of a tripod, if one is weak the whole thing loses stability."

See COUNCIL on 9

Tribes examine meth prevention strategies

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal members and organizations from across the northwest gathered at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort for the 2007 Methamphetamine Prevention and Awareness Northwest Tribes United Conference recently.

Approximately 60 people attended the two-day conference.

Wayne Miller, coordinator for the meth prevention program, said the idea behind the conference was to begin networking with other reservations in order to develop positive programs.

According to Miller, those that attended the conference had positive opinions.

"I had very good feedback," Miller said. "They were saying how heartwarming and touching it was to hear and see a community come together."

A group of women approached Miller regarding a woman who had been sober less than a month—and whom the community had embraced.

"They were saying that was really touching and how the traditions played a big value," Miller said. "That was really cool to hear that kind of feedback."

During the conference community members with periods of sobriety ranging from 23 months to ten years spoke to the crowd about their personal experiences and reasons for getting off drugs.

In addition, representatives from housing, Indian Health Services, the Deschutes County Meth Coalition and various other tribes spoke to those in attendance.

Representatives from the Native American Rehabilitation Association for the Northwest (N.A.R.A.) also spoke.

Those in the community often work with N.A.R.A., Miller said.

"They take on a lot of Native Americans from not only Oregon but

Washington, Idaho and all over, really," Miller added. "We got them involved because the tribes deal with them on a regular basis."

The main focus of the conference involved meeting with tribal members from throughout the northwest in order to work together to solve a common problem—"Really just start implementing programs that work: what works and what doesn't and what do they try," Miller explained.

Nicholas Katchia, a senior at Madras High School, gave a presentation that he began creating at the age of 15. The presentation dealt with the physical effects of methamphetamines and the fatal accidents that can occur as a result of drug use.

"It was a really powerful presentation," Miller said. "That's what really opened up some of the eyes of some people that attended. They have to take into consideration that that came from a 15-year-old when he first put that together."

In the future, Miller said he hopes they can host additional conferences.

"This is just the start of things to really get involved in this methamphetamine epidemic," he said. "What this conference started out to do was just to be with all the tribes of Oregon, and actually it expanded up to Washington and Idaho too."

Next up for the local methamphetamine task force will be a project to clean up the community.

In particular, they are working to clean up the local park.

"That's becoming a really unhealthy environment for teenagers," Miller said.

Because of an increase in drug and alcohol use, Miller said, the park is being destroyed by vandalism. Recently task force members found alcohol bottles and drug paraphernalia while cleaning up the park.

See METH PREVENTION on 8

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