

Testing addresses water concerns

Community members concerned about the water quality of their private wells can arrange to have the water tested through Environmental Health.

According to Nancy Collins, they offer a testing service for arsenic with a charge of \$25.

They also offer a free service for testing for bacteria and nitrates.

People will be charged to test for arsenic, Collins said, because "We're not set up to really test for that on a routine basis."

It's important to arrange to have an official test done, Collins said, and not to bring water in your own contain-

ers in attempt to have it tested.

"We don't want people bringing in water because we have to take it in certain containers," she explained.

It's definitely important to have your water tested, Collins said, and she recommends the test for bacteria and nitrates.

"I think people should test every year for bacteria and nitrates, or bacteria anyway, until they get a history of good results," Collins said. "Bacteria can occur a lot more easily than a lot of things."

To arrange to have your well tested, call Environmental Health at 553-4943.

Tribes open prized spring fishery for the first time years

For the first time in several years, fishers from the four Columbia River treaty tribes will be selling the most coveted of all the Columbia River salmon, the prized spring Chinook.

These fish are desired for their high oil content, flavor, and heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. The commercial fishery allows the sale of spring Chinook and steelhead as well as incidentally caught fish including wall-eye, shad and carp.

Sales of commercially caught fish opened earlier this week and will continue until further notice.

The tribal fishery is protected under 1855 treaties with the federal government, where the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes reserved the right to fish at all usual and accustomed fish-

ing places in the Columbia River Basin.

The treaty right that includes ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fisheries.

"The commercial fishery is a fundamental part of the tribal community," said Olney Patt Jr., executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"It allows tribal fishers to support their families, continue their traditions and rebuild their communities by putting resources back into the local, tribal, and regional economies."

The fish commission estimates that for every \$10 generated by fish sales, as much as \$7 is placed back into local economies.

The tribes are excited to be able to share this resource with the public, but due to high demand and the relatively low availability of salmon on the West Coast, prices may be higher than previous years and the numbers of fish for sale direct to the public may be somewhat limited.

Price is determined at the point of sale.

Tribal fishers may be found selling fish at a number of locations along the river: Marine Park at Cascade Locks, Lone Pine at The Dalles and the boat launch near Roosevelt, Washington.

Commercial sales will not occur on Corps of Engineers property at Bonneville Dam.

To find out where the day's catch is being sold, call the salmon marketing program at (888) 289-1855 or visit the salmon marketing website indiansalmonharvest.com. Sales are cash only.

Attendance

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Right now they're working jointly with the school district, Begay said, to determine what type of action they should take.

In the past, Begay added, parents have been ordered to ride the bus to school with their children and sit in class.

The current number of students absent from school is definitely something that needs to be lowered, Begay said.

"The numbers are, in my opinion, real high," Begay said.

He has been traveling from house to house with the school liaisons on behalf of Tribal

Court to hand out letters to parents so they can learn of what consequences their child's absence can have.

"We got the backing from the judges on our part for all tribal kids," Begay said. "We got one base covered in that sense."

Jefferson County Middle School staff are also addressing more when it comes to the attendance problem—Clark said they're also working to redesign the curriculum to make it more engaging, so that ultimately students will want to be at school.

So far they are waiting to see how the program improves the

attendance rate, but Clark said he hopes they won't need to continue the program next year.

"I would hope that by the end of this year the students understand the importance of coming to school and we won't need this next year," Clark said. "I do not see this as a long-term fix but just a step in the middle."

The tribal liaisons to the school district are Butch David, Lana Leonard and Foster Kalama. Anyone with questions can call the middle school at 475-7253, or the high school at 475-7265.

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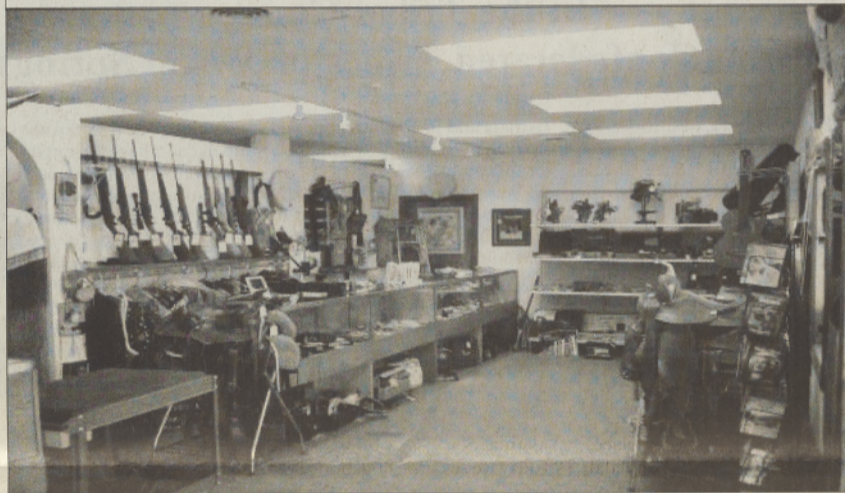
on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call us at 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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