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Museum hosts annual Huckleberry Harvest

The Museum at Warm Springs hosted the Thirteenth Annual Huckleberry Harvest at Cascade Locks.

Some of the Harvest activities happened at the Cascade Locks pavilion, and some on the sternwheeler.

"It was great. We had so much fun," said Carol Leone, museum director.

The silent auction was held on the sternwheeler, as was the dinner. The Huckleberry Harvest is the principal annual fundraiser for the museum. "We had a great auctioneer," said Leone.

A special auction raised \$10,000 for an audiovisual upgrade at the museum.

During the Huckleberry Harvest, artist Lillian Pitt (left) and Tamara Moody (in regalia) visited with former Oregon governor Vic Atiyeh and wife Delores.



Greg Leo photo for Spilyay

Patt resigning from CRITFC

Olney "J.P." Patt Jr. has announced his resignation as the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

Patt said he chose to resign because of personal and family considerations.

He concludes a five-year tenure that witnessed the emotions of the 50-year commemoration of the loss of Celilo Falls; a growing sea lion predation controversy; and the completion of three historic agreements with federal, state and Canadian parties.

A member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Patt cites a desire to return to the Warm Springs Reservation to be nearer his 94 year old father, Olney Patt Sr.

Patt Jr. spent much of his political career as a member of the Tribal Council, and served as the Council chairman from 1998-2003.

He will seek to return to Warm Springs tribal service, and desires to stay directly involved in fish and wildlife policy.

"The time is right for this personal and professional transition," he said. "It has been an honor to serve the tribes through this esteemed organization."

CRITFC is organizationally sound with fresh multi-year agreements and a robust implementation agenda, said Patt.

"It's a time for new blood, new energy and fresh ideas," said Patt. "I know CRITFC will secure a new director with all those skills."

Patt has a Presidential appointment as a U.S. Commissioner to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

He will continue to fulfill the duties of that appointment.

Fidelia Andy, CRITFC executive committee member, commented:

"We respect Olney's wishes to be closer to family and tribe. We're deeply appreciative of his five years of service to the four treaty tribes".

CRITFC will immediately begin a nationwide search for a new executive director with emphasis on candidates from its member tribes.

Kathryn Brigham, CRITFC's newly elected Chairwoman, said the Commission hopes to complete its search and selection by October.

Community discusses adoption election

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Community members gathered at the Agency Longhouse recently to discuss their concerns regarding the upcoming adoption election.

A general council meeting was held last week to give Tribal Council a chance to hear the opinions of people in Warm Springs.

Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of Vital Statistics, spoke to the large crowd about several options being considered for the next adoption election.

Three district meetings are being held in order to give people a chance to voice concerns, Queahpama-Spino said. "We've had some good input," she added.

Approximately 238 people were included on the original adoption list, Queahpama-Spino said, while 48 applied after the election was set.

Currently, aspects like the residency requirement are being evaluated, as

well as potentially adopting a census role other than the 1940 census role, she added.

Many of the decisions are dependent on community opinion. "It could mean a lot of things based on what we hear at these meetings," Queahpama-Spino explained.

It is particularly important to develop a consistent method of handling adoption elections, she added.

"Enrollments can get really emotional," Queahpama-Spino said, and that creates a need to have clear methods of handling the adoption elections.

Aurolyn Stwyer, vice chairwoman of the Tribal Council, also addressed the crowd, and said that having enough voters is particularly important to the adoption election.

The 2002 adoption election was invalid, she said, because not enough people turned out to vote.

Several options are being explored and could potentially involve making some people eligible for automatic en-

rollment—for instance, Stwyer said, if tribal members decide to include those affiliated with the Columbia River tribes for automatic enrollment, about 29 currently on the adoption list would qualify.

Community members voiced a variety of opinions during the course of the meeting.

Anita Jackson spoke of her struggles to get her son enrolled, and said she believes the process should be easier for tribal members.

"If you're an enrolled member, your child should be eligible for automatic enrollment," Jackson said.

She also spoke of the lengthy process involved in enrollment. In Jackson's opinion, "At the rate we're going, by the time these kids get enrolled they'll be dead."

Maxine Switzler encouraged Tribal Council to keep the residency requirement intact.

She urged people seeking to enroll their children to keep them in the com-

munity, and added, "Let's give these young people a chance to show that they can raise their children in the Indian way."

Daisy Ike spoke of economic shortcomings the tribes could face if too many are enrolled and encouraged people to protect against carelessness when having children.

"There is not going to be enough money to educate everyone—it's already short," Ike explained.

Other community members spoke of the problems schools are facing because they are unable to fully represent how many Native students are attending if those students are unable to identify themselves as a tribal member.

Schools are facing the loss of funding because of that problem, some said.

Currently the process to conduct an adoption election has lasted four years, according to Queahpama-Spino.

Tribes create a 'Place for Kids' Club

Action taken to ease impact of closure of Boys and Girls Club

The local Boys and Girls Club is closing and a new tribal club will be opening in its place.

The Central Oregon Boys and Girls Clubs Board of Governors announced the closure of the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club.

The Boys and Girls Club was scheduled to close today, July 31.

According to the Central Oregon Boys and Girls Clubs Board of Governors, the Boys and Girls Club is closing for financial reasons.

With the declining regional economic picture, the Board of Governors concluded that continued subsidization of the Warm Springs branch jeopardized the financial stability of other local clubs.

The club's Warm Springs Local Advisory Board approached Warm Springs Tribal Council on July 17 to



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Jiana Smith-Francis, Amyah Miller, Kyeowna Miller, and Anessia Smith play in front of the Place for Kids Club.

advise them of the situation.

Recognizing the service that the club provides to youth and families, Tribal Council passed resolutions in support

of transitioning the former Central Oregon Regional operations of the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club to a tribally operated stand-alone program.

Short term funding is being provided to allow the Local Advisory Board time to create a viable plan for continuing club operations.

The Warm Springs "Place for Kids" Club will be open as of tomorrow, August 1, 2008, in the same location as the current Boys and Girls Club, at the Vernon Jackson Home.

The new club will continue to operate with the same staff, schedule and activities for children.

The clubs provide daily activities, snacks and fun to kids ages 6 to 18, although the majority of youth who attend are 6-12 years of age.

"The transition will be seamless," says club director June Smith.

"We will continue to offer afternoon activities to school age youth through August 22 and return to our school year schedule in September."

The tribes will honor fees paid to the Boys and Girls Club as fees for the Place for Kids Club.

Employee appreciation day next Friday

The 2008 Employee Appreciation Day will be on Friday, August 8.

Appreciation Day will be at the Community Center field.

Estimated start time is 10 a.m. Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Activities will be throughout the day, until about 4 p.m.

Please register for activities with Tribal Mail and Reception, 553-3333. Activities include:

Tug of war, canoe race, softball, 3 on 3 basketball, kickball, three-legged race, balloon toss, gunny sack race, cook off, watermelon eating contest, talent show, dunk tank, limbo contest, and karaoke. An Elvis impersonator is also scheduled to perform.