

# Jeff Merkley brings campaign to Warm Springs

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Oregon Rep. Jeff Merkley, candidate for U.S. Senate, visited Warm Springs last weekend as part of his 100 Towns for Change tour.

Merkley, who is Speaker of the Oregon House, visited the Museum at Warm Springs and spoke to community members after spending time in Madras and Culver.

Merkley said he has worked with the tribes for the past 10 years through his involvement as a state representative and House Speaker.

In Merkley's opinion, the key issues for Oregon include ending the war in Iraq, restoring the integrity of the U.S., creating affordable and accessible healthcare, and ending the dependence of foreign oil and recreating the energy policy.

As for the war in Iraq, Merkley said, "It's only by having a scheduled plan for our withdrawal that we create the

incentive for Iraq groups to step up and fill the vacuum and take over public safety."

"Otherwise they'd be glad to have our sons and daughters there for a long time," Merkley added. "It's just an inappropriate place for us to be and we need to end it."

Merkley said he and Sen. Gordon Smith differ when it comes to opinions on the energy crisis and dependency on foreign oil: Merkley favors ending the dependency on foreign oil and an advocacy for an energy policy that would serve people.

Merkley favors getting rid of the No Child Left Behind Act, and said he's spoken to many teachers in Oregon who have told him of its downfalls.

"Let's do what works to strengthen our schools," Merkley said. "Let's not try to undermine them as Smith and Bush have."

While Merkley expressed a respect for the self-governance of tribal organizations, he said he remains neutral on the issue

of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' proposed casino at Cascade Locks.

"I've been neutral on that issue," Merkley explained. "I think that there are pros and cons, and I have a neutral position on it."

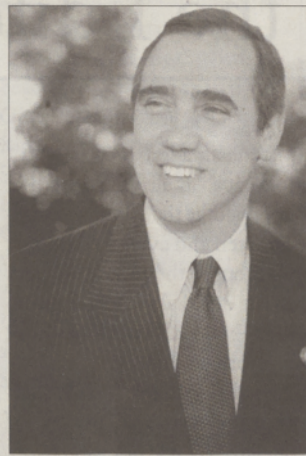
Health care is one issue that Merkley believes is incredibly important—because the system is tied to employment, it creates an unsteady situation for many families.

In fact, Merkley said, "Health care nearly kept me out of this race for U.S. Senate."

In order to run, he explained, his wife began working part-time and lost her health care benefits. While his family is currently covered through his health plan, Merkley said, they will lose those benefits in January.

"This is the type of chaos, that I know personally from my life, that all families, all ordinary families are experiencing in this state," Merkley said.

"We need to invest in our clinics, we need to invest in prevention, we need to invest in fee



Jeff Merkley

management so that people can have a much healthier, happier life."

Merkley also spoke of the Social Security and Medicare crisis, as well as the issue of veteran's benefits.

When it comes to veteran's benefits, Merkley said, "The Bush Administration and Senator Smith got it absolutely wrong. They were fast to go to war and they were slow to take care of

our veterans."

Merkley is an advocate for veteran's benefits, and he added, "I have enormous respect for the work that they do."

Merkley also spoke of his desire for rural development with the Grow Oregon plan.

The plan aims to strengthen rural economies and addresses the infrastructure of small towns.

"In order to have thriving small towns we need to have a strong education system, we need to have affordable healthcare, we need to invest in transportation, we need to invest in water resources for agriculture and we need to address communication needs," Merkley said.

The plan would also provide tax incentives for small businesses and help to crack down on the meth epidemic that strains rural economies, among much more.

When it comes to the methamphetamine problem in Oregon, Merkley said, he has advocated making the ingredients used in cold medicine to make

methamphetamines available by prescription only.

In addition, he said, he supports making more funds available to prosecute meth crimes. While the penalties for such crimes are already significant, he said, more resources are needed in order to prosecute them.

One of his favorite campaign experiences thus far involved a parade on the Oregon coast.

Because the parade moved quickly, Merkley said, he had to run to keep up in between chatting with spectators.

"It's the first time I've gotten exercise in about a year," Merkley said with a chuckle. "It was just a pure joy. I'm thinking I'd be in much better condition if I had to be in a parade every single day."

In the end, Merkley said, it is important to him to take the viewpoints of all Oregonians into consideration.

"I want to be the type of senator who cares what people are thinking in our towns," Merkley explained.

## Record return of sockeye salmon

(AP) — Sockeye salmon are heading back up the Columbia River this summer in numbers unseen since 1955, and nobody is sure why.

Some credit a federal court order releasing extra water over dams in 2006 and 2007 to ease the young salmon's passage to the sea. Others cite improved ocean conditions.

But the returning numbers exceed any year since the last major dam was built on the Columbia or Snake rivers. Sockeye were close to being written off in parts of the Northwest's

largest river system.

Fish counters have recorded the return of nearly 215,000 sockeye, or red, salmon through Tuesday.

Most are headed upriver to Washington's Wenatchee and Osoyoos lakes. A few others, representing the river system's most endangered run, are going to Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. That run is nearly complete. The count of returning adult sockeye headed for Lower Granite topped 800 through Tuesday.

It is the largest sockeye re-

turn recorded at Lower Granite since it was built in 1975, and nearly 25 times the average return of the last 10 years. Ten years ago two sockeye came back.

The Snake River sockeye was the first population to be listed as endangered on the Columbia system 17 years ago.

The large return follows relatively good returns of spring chinook to the Columbia and good early indications on steelhead. The sockeye is the third most common species of Pacific salmon.

### The Diabetes Prevention Program wants you!

If you are at risk for diabetes, we want to help you prevent it!

Get more information about what your risk for diabetes is by: calling Montell at 553-1170 or Angelenita at 553-1178; or by coming to the Diabetes Prevention Program Office at 1142 Warm Springs Street on campus.

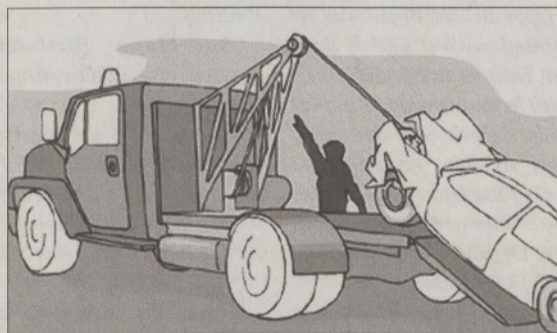


### Gospel concert next month

A gospel concert will be held from August 25 to August 30. The event will take place at Elmer Quinn Park, where a tent will be set up that seats about 200 people. Gospel musicians from various areas will be present, including musicians from Montana, Arizona, Utah and Washington. Call Valerie Govenor at 553-2576, Easton Aguilar, or Anita Davis at 553-2525 with any questions.

Thank you for supporting the businesses you see in the Spilyay Tymoo.

### Remove abandoned vehicles



People wishing to have abandoned vehicles removed from their property can call Tiger Van Pelt at 419-7379, or Rodney Guerin at 977-6981.

### Warm Springs Market

### Indian Arts and Crafts

2132 Warm Springs St.  
Warm Springs, OR 97761  
(541) 553-1597

Please note: The next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, August 8. Thank you.

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