

County economic development program remains in controversy

Controversy continues to cloud the Jefferson County Economic Development project.

The Confederated Tribes initially supported the program, and a tribal representative served on its advisory committee.

The representative, the tribes' chief financial officer Ray Potter, resigned last month from the committee.

The controversy centers on the executive director of Jefferson County Economic Development, Drew Pearson, who was hired to the position last fall.

Pearson's application for the job was misleading in that his resume included work history that was not true, said Potter.

Pearson also submitted a letter, later retracted, supporting destination resort development in the Metolius basin, which the tribes are opposed to.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, and Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) support Pearson as executive director of Jefferson County Economic Development. The county and EDCO formed Jefferson County Economic Develop-

ment by agreement in 2008.

The Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, of which the tribes are a member, believes changes are needed to Jefferson County Economic Development.

The chamber board recently sent a letter to its membership detailing the situation, and asking for membership input.

"If you believe that we should not concern ourselves with the dishonesty and disrespect to our county, then please let us know, as we are supposed to be representing you," the letter says.

Chronic pain support group

The Chronic Pain Support Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21.

The meeting will be in the Atrium at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Clinic.

The topic to be covered is: Chronic Pain and Memory Loss—Are They Related.

Come and find out at the next meeting.

EO Offers distance education programs

Everyone is invited to an orientation on May 4 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., when an advisor will discuss Eastern Oregon University and its distance education programs. Come to the upstairs

training room at the Education building on May 4 with any questions for the advisor. For more information, call Eastern Oregon University Bend regional center office at 385-1137.

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