

Oregon tribes to gather again in Salem

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will participate in the Second annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations on Jan. 30 in Salem at the fairgrounds.

Last year's event, held in

honor of Oregon's 150th anniversary, was considered so successful that people began asking if it could be a yearly event for all nine tribes across Oregon, said Louie Pitt, head of tribal government affairs.

Interest in the event stems from it being a rare opportunity for the Oregon tribes to emphasize their sovereignty and various attributes with displays, processions, entertainment and other events.

The gathering will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Oregon State Fair is located in Salem at 2330 17th Street NE. Cost of parking is \$3.

Howlak Tichum

Frederick A. Lawrence, 1970-2009

Frederick A. Lawrence of Goldendale, Wash., died at his home on December 26, 2009. He was 39.

Mr. Lawrence was born in Goldendale on November 29, 1970 to Gale and Lorraine (Shike) Lawrence.

He graduated from Goldendale High School in 1990. Mr. Lawrence worked as a laborer for the Seattle Conservation Corps and the Yakama Nation in the forestry division.

He was a member of the Yakama Nation, and enjoyed

all traditional activities, hunting and fishing. He was the "best Uncle Fred ever."

Mr. Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by five brothers, Victor R. Wilson of Wapato, John A. Lawrence of Goldendale, Nathan Shike of Billings, Emmett Washines of Toppenish and Daniel Lawrence of Warm Springs; five sisters, Roberta Norris of Goldendale, Kathryn Schwartz of Bremerton, Agnes, Valerie and Stacy Snyder, all of Warm Springs.

Health care reform bill adds coverage

Tribal members would have an additional health care coverage option under the proposed national health care reform legislation, which the U.S. Senate and House are currently working on.

The Confederated Tribes' Washington, D.C., lobbyist Mark Phillips last week updated the Tribal Council on the health care reform law.

In the House version of the

bill, Phillips said, tribal members, like other citizens, would be required to obtain health insurance, even though tribal members are already served through Indian Health Service (IHS).

People earning \$65,000 or less per year would not be required to pay for the health care coverage, he said. "For the majority of tribal members on the reservation the coverage would

be free," he said.

So tribal members could have two health care coverage options, with passage of health care reform: IHS and a personal insurance policy. "It's like a second round of coverage," Phillips said.

HIS could become a better funded entity under this scenario, as there would be another source, other than Medicare and Medicaid, from which the ser-

vice could seek reimbursement of cost, he said.

"I think this is a wonderful approach for tribal members," he said.

— by Dave McMechan

Crackdown on tribal crime

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is ordering prosecutors in 33 states to step up efforts to combat crime on Indian reservations, particularly offenses against women and children.

Attorney General Eric Holder was announcing the effort after his deputy, David Ogden, sent a memo instructing those federal prosecutors to do more to fight tribal crime.

The memo says 47 new pros-

ecutors and FBI personnel will be assigned to this work.

On tribal lands, federal officials are usually responsible for prosecuting serious crimes. While the nationwide crime rate is falling, statistics show American Indians are victims of violent crime at more than twice the national rate — and some tribes have murder rates against women ten times greater than the national average.

Stone-setting

Renita "Neetah" Harvey (Winishut)

The stone-setting and memorial for Renita "Neetah" Harvey (Winishut) will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at Tenino Cemetery, then move to the Agency Longhouse for the giveaway and meal.

For details, contact Roberta Jim at 541-553-4961 or Gayleen Adams at 541-325-6061.

Living with chronic conditions workshop

Are you living with a chronic condition, and are you ready to start the new year feeling better?

If you answered yes, then you will be interested in this upcoming workshop.

The Living Well with Chronic Conditions is a 6-week workshop. It teaches real-life skills for living a full, healthy life with a chronic condition.

Classes are fun and interactive. Participants share their successes and build a common source of support. The workshop builds confidence around

managing health, staying active, and enjoying life.

Topics Covered:

Managing symptoms; medication "how-to"; working with your health care team; setting weekly goals.

Also: effective problem solving; better communication; how to relax; handling difficult emotions; tips for eating well, and safe, easy exercise.

Program length: six weeks, meeting two and one-half hours each week.

Who attends: People with different chronic conditions and

their family or friends.

What you will learn: Resources, skills, and action planning to give you a sense of greater control over life with a chronic condition.

Leaders: Trained leaders from the Warm Springs community who either have or are caring for someone who has a chronic condition.

Cost: zero fees. Course materials and a book included. Contact: Brenda Johnson, regional coordinator for Central Oregon at 541-322-7430.

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