

Tribes greet LongestWalk team

The LongestWalk 3 team visited Warm Springs last Wednesday, Feb. 16, on their way to Washington D.C.

The walk began on Feb. 14 in Portland, and is an effort to spread awareness about diabetes and its impact on Native Americans.

In Warm Springs the team attended the Heart Smart dinner, hosted by the Indian Health Service and the Diabetes Prevention program.

The northern LongestWalk 3 was organized by Chris Francisco, a Navajo from Shiprock, N.M., living in Portland.

Another group of walkers, following a southern route, left Feb. 14 from San Diego, Calif.

Both groups expect to reach the U.S. capital in July, and will hold community talks about reversing diabetes along the way.

The original LongestWalk in 1978 was to bring attention to Native American sovereignty and stop anti-Native American legislation being crafted by Congress, proposals that threatened tribal lands and water, and fish-



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ing and hunting rights.

Focus of the LongestWalk 2, in 2008, was to bring attention to sacred sites and to clean up the earth. It also marked the Thirtieth Anniversary commemoration of the first walk.

"We're still fighting for our

survival," Chris Francisco said. "And it seems there's always something new we have to fight for."

The high incidence of diabetes among Native Americans, he said is because "we aren't eating the healthy foods of their ancestors."

Less exercises because of modern conveniences is another factor. Not very many people even grow their own food anymore, he said.

For details about the LongestWalk, visit: earthbornproductions.com

OSU Extension gearing up for gardening season

Oregon State University Extension Service at Warm Springs will present the community garden workshops this spring.

All sessions will be on Saturday at the Education Building from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and will include a healthy snack. Here are some of the gardening topics for discussion:

March 5: Starting vegetables and general plant care.

March 12: Vegetable varieties for Warm Springs.

March 19: Garden fertilizers.

March 26: Warm Springs Community Garden information session.

Presenters will be Diabetes Prevention program lifestyle coach Edmund Francis; Bryan Lund, Warm Springs Master Gardener in training; Jan Foster, Master Gardener; Karen McCarthy, landscape professional. Fara Brummer: OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For information phone 541-553-3238. Or e-mail:

fara.brummer@oregonstate.edu

The Diabetes Prevention program phone is 541-553-0118.

Edmund Francis' email is: edmund.francis@ihs.gov

Wing Dress class this month

Children's Protective Services is sponsoring a Wing Dress class from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, and from 1-4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25. All material provided, but bring your own lunch.

This is for youth from birth to age 18. "Please help build our

culture back up in our youth," said Minnie Wallulatum, family preservation coordinator at CPS. For information, call her at 541-553-3209. Sponsors are CPS, the Tribal Court Youth Prevention program, and Culture and Heritage.

News from Indian Country

Feds raid Yakama tobacco company

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—Federal agents have raided a cigarette maker on the Yakama Indian Reservation.

The raid came a day after King Mountain Tobacco sued Washington state and Attorney General Rob McKenna alleging violations of the Yakama Nation's 1855 treaty rights.

A search warrant gave agents permission to seize company records and computer equipment, but an affidavit explaining the purpose of the raid was

not included. A copy of the search warrant was anonymously faxed to the Yakama Herald-Republic newspaper on Wednesday.

In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court, King Mountain claims the state is illegally trying to collect a penalty stemming from the 46-state tobacco settlements in 1998. The lawsuit says the tribe's treaty guarantees it can get goods to market "free of any fees, tolls or other impediments."

Tribes lead fight against fishing restrictions

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Northern California Native American tribes are clashing with state wildlife regulators over plans to restrict fishing off parts of the rugged coastline from the Oregon border south to Point Arena in Mendocino County.

The tribes, including the Yurok, the state's largest, say proposals for marine protection areas along the North Coast infringe on their fishing rights.

Those proposals — currently before the state fish and game commission — were crafted under California's 1999 Marine Life Protection Act, which was aimed in part at preventing overfishing and restoring depleted fisheries.

"The main issue is the Marine Life Protection Act has the potential to make criminals out of cultural practitioners," said Nick Angeloff, historic preservation officer for the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. "It is the biggest threat to tribal sovereignty in decades."

Although the state has created marine protected areas along other parts of its coastline, opposition until now has mostly been from commercial fishermen concerned about their livelihoods. On the North Coast, tribes have been the effort's main critics. At stake for

them, tribal representatives say, are cultural practices dating back thousands of years and their sovereign rights.

"We are part of this ecosystem," said Yurok Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "We have never stopped gathering. We have never stopped harvesting, and we will continue to gather, hunt and harvest from the waters of the ocean."

State wildlife officials and advisors say they can't carve out an exception that would allow tribes to harvest marine life from coastal waters while maintaining restrictions for other users. That would be illegal under laws guaranteeing equal access, said Ken Wiseman, executive director of the Marine Life Protection Act initiative.

Additionally, Wiseman said opening those areas to all non-commercial users, including the tribes, would conflict with science guidelines and the marine protection act's goals.

But the two sides appear closer to a solution following a meeting earlier this month. The new head of the state Natural Resources Agency, John Laird, called at the Feb. 2 meeting for a solution that accommodates

the tribe's gathering rights while maintaining restrictions for other users, tribal representatives and state officials say. State and tribal officials are currently working on carving out an exception for tribes based on the religious and cultural significance of fishing to their members, Wiseman said.

"It's a cultural tradition that shouldn't be interrupted," Wiseman said of the tribes' fishing practices. "The challenge has been that we've wanted to give them an exemption, but not had the tools to do that."

The Marine Life Protection Act called on the state to redesign the system of marine protected areas along its entire 1,100-mile coastline. It found that existing protections had been created piecemeal and without scientific evidence to support them.

The state's coastline was divided up into regions that would be reevaluated for protection.

The fish and game commission has so far approved marine protected areas for three of the five regions — the South Coast, the Central Coast and the North Central Coast. Regulations for the Central Coast and

North Central Coast are already in effect, greatly expanding the area where fishing is prohibited or otherwise restricted.

"As the process has moved up north, there has been more opposition from tribes," said John Corbett, senior attorney for the Yurok Tribe.

Tribal representatives say that, unlike their counterparts in Southern California, many tribes in the northern part of the state have not been pushed inland.

"Northern Indians still have a coastal experience," said Louie Guassac, who represented the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association on a task force set up to help create the marine protected area in the Southern part of the state.

The Yurok say they fish for subsistence, pulling mussels off rocks by hand and fishing from the shoreline. Mussels, smelt and other marine resources serve as food or decoration for ceremonial regalia.

"It is a significant component in people's lives," Corbett said.

According to Corbett, fishing restrictions on the Yurok and other noncommercial users were based on faulty science.

House kills bill to give tribe's arrest power

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—House lawmakers narrowly rejected a bill to give tribal police power to arrest non-Indians on Idaho reservations without permission from the local sheriff.

The vote was 34-35.

The Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe in northern Idaho had hoped it would help remedy a longstanding dispute with Benewah County.

The tribe and county had a cross-deputization pact until 2007, but it unraveled amid acrimony. Efforts to forge another

one have failed, including last year.

Rep. Dick Harwood of Benewah County opposed the bill, saying it would give the tribe power over non-Indians, without the necessary accountability.

Harwood says, "It's not racist. It's their fear of losing their civil liberties."

Supporters including Rep. Mack Shirley of Rexburg said this "is just to provide proper law enforcement within the boundaries of the reservation."

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