

Vandalism raises questions

By Duran Bobb
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Tribal members are concerned over what at first appears to be racially motivated vandalism recently discovered on the Warm Springs Reservation.

A tribal member wood cutter discovered chainsaw marks cut completely through the bark of a tree marked for salvage in the southeast area of the reservation.

"It was a concern because it appears to be a swastika," Oliver Kirk, enforcement officer said. Below the symbol is a vulgarity referring to "NDNZ".

The vandalism was reported in late January and investigated by Kirk.

"But two things make me think," Kirk said. "The first is that the arms of the swastika are pointed in the wrong way." White supremacist groups,



Someone left these curious markings on a tree on the reservation.

including the Aryan Nation, use the traditional right-handed swastika and are critical when imitators mistakenly assume all swastikas are the same. One website compares a

swastika with left-handed arms to that of Christians who might accidentally draw an upside-down cross.

Also stirring suspicion, "NDN" is known to be used by Native Americans as an abbreviation for "Indian".

"But the thing is that this has been done," Kirk said. "If it's a tribal member who left this behind, they could be facing charges including destruction of public property. They should also have a little more respect for their reservation and know better to do this to their own land."

If a non-member is found to have committed the vandalism, Kirk said, they could also be facing federal criminal charges.

If you have information that could help with this investigation, please call Oliver Kirk or the Warm Springs Police Department.

Trading at the River in April

The Trading at the River Native American business gathering is set for April 20-21 at the Grand Ronde Spirit Mountain Casino.

The gathering is sponsored by the Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurship Network (Onaben).

The this year the Trading at the River theme is "Circling Back and Going Forward: Celebrating 20 years of Indianpreneurship."

The 2011 gathering will mark the ninth year of event. "This is one is very special," the Onaben event flyer reads. "We will gather on the banks of the Yamhill River at Grand Ronde, where Onaben was born two decades ago."

"We have much to celebrate about our past and

much to talk about for our future.

"Like the historic gatherings that occurred here and in many places among the traders of this region, Trading at the River is a place where connections are made, business-to-business, tribe-to-tribe, and from past to present."

The Ninth Annual Trading at the River conference will include:

An intensive business development conference with community discussions, workshops, symposiums, and celebrations.

A Trading at the River marketplace of ideas, products, and services—the famous traditional gathering of Indianpreneurs.

A gathering of emerging and established Native Capital De-

velopment Funding Institutions convened by the newly established Pacific Northwest Native Capital Development Peer Group, which will explore ways of generating new forms of capital to support Native entrepreneurship and tribal-individual joint ventures.

The kick off for Innovations in Indianpreneurship 2012—a biennial business plan competition and business showcase.

A Founders recognition luncheon that will highlight the last 20 years of tribal economic development.

A Business Alliance reception gathering the region's Native businesses and chambers of commerce.

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