

Howlak Tichum

Head Start conducting community assessment survey



Awtai Bernice (Tohet) Mitchell, tribal elder who served many terms on Tribal Council, has passed away.

Warm Springs Head Start/Early Head Start is asking community members to complete an assessment survey.

"In order to plan for the future, we must know where our community is now," the Head Start information states. A main goal of the assessment is to identify potential gaps in programs and services on the reservations, in order to address them.

The results will be shared

with the community. Residents will receive the assessment questionnaire in the mail in the near future. Copies can also be picked up at the Early Childhood Education Center.

Head Start/Early Head Start is asking people to return the completed survey as soon as possible, such as within the next couple of weeks.

The surveys are to be filled out anonymously.

The assessment survey begins with questions about the responder's household, such as number of children, marital status, etc. There are questions about the Head Start/Early Head Start program in particular, such as the number of children enrolled, and hours of use.

There are questions regarding the responder's level of education, employment status, programs and services that are be-

ing used, and neighborhood crime levels.

The survey asks the responder to rate various subjects in importance, on a level of one to five. Subjects include Native language, crafts, respect for others, family, hunting/fishing/gathering, animals, the sweat lodge, to name some examples.

Head Start/Early Head Start greatly appreciates your help with this community assessment.

More News from Indian Country

Criticism leads to Seattle police reforms

SEATTLE (AP) - Pre-empting a meeting with Department of Justice officials, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn last week proposed a series of police reforms in response to a damning federal report that came after several high-profile incidents involving minorities.

McGinn and police Chief John Diaz outlined 20 initiatives to be implemented over 20 months that range from hiring more minority officers, training all officers on standards for use

of force, developing protocol to make sure encounters don't escalate, and steps to address biased policing.

"As mayor, I will be holding police leadership accountable to achieve these changes," McGinn said at a City Hall news conference, adding that the initiatives outlined are meant to go beyond the federal concerns.

In December, the U.S. Justice Department said inadequate supervision and training had led officers to grab weapons such

Community groups called for the inquiry after a Seattle officer shot and killed Native American woodcarver, John T. Williams.

as batons and flashlights too quickly, intensifying confrontations—even when arresting people for minor offenses.

The department launched an

investigation following the fatal shooting of a homeless Native American woodcarver and other reported uses of force against minorities.

Federal investigators determined Seattle police engaged in excessive force that violated federal law and the Constitution, but did not find discriminatory policing, but the report acknowledged that many community members believe the department does show bias.

Judge delays decision on Catawba gambling

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - A judge has delayed a decision on whether South Carolina's only federally recognized tribe can open a gambling hall on its reservation in York County.

Circuit Judge Ernest Kinard said Monday at a hear-

ing in Richland County that he needs more time to review the hundreds of pages of documents filed in the case before deciding whether to grant a temporary injunction to the Catawba Indian Nation that would allow gambling immediately.

Nez Perce tribe still pursuing horse registry

LAPWAI, Idaho (AP) - More than a decade after its inception and in the recent wake of a not-so-glowing documentary film, the Nez Perce Horse Registry has gone from a galloping start

to a tentative trot.

But tribal officials said they remain dedicated to ensuring both the registry and a young horseman's program as a means of embracing the Nez Perce Tribe's equestrian past.

Rumors of the horse registry's demise are false, said Allen Slickpoo Jr., a Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee member.

"It's best to hear it from the horse's mouth, to find truth and

fact," Slickpoo said. "Gossip can go around and around. But if you don't really know, go to the individuals who do know and ask. That's how it's going to get clarified."

About 200 horses have been registered and the tribe still owns about 40 horses, according to tribal records. Called the Nez Perce Horse, the breed is a cross between spotted Appaloosas and a central Asian breed called akhal-teke. The original

Nez Perce horses are thought to be extinct.

Initially, officials hoped the creation of a new tribal breed would generate enough enthusiasm and dollars to become a self-sustaining proposition. But, after three horse auctions to pare down the herd and other attempts to cover costs, about \$150,000 in casino profits are needed annually to keep the dream alive.

Bottled water foes oppose plant

Cascade Locks (AP) - Bottled water foes have asked Gov. John Kitzhaber to stop a deal that would allow Nestle to build a bottling plant at Cascade Locks in the Columbia River Gorge, 45 miles east of Portland.

Nestle wants to bottle spring water, some of which is now used at a state salmon hatchery.

Environmental activists are asking the governor to tell the Fish and Wildlife Department not to swap its water rights with the city.

The swap would give the hatchery access to city well water and the bottler access to the spring water.

The \$50 million plant would bring about 50 jobs.

"The ultimate solution to keeping Nestle out of the gorge lies with Governor Kitzhaber," said Julia DeGraw, Northwest organizer for the Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group, Food & Water Watch.

It would be Nestlé's first plant in the region after rejec-

tions from towns in Washington and Northern California. Smaller-scale water bottling plants are already established in the gorge, including Water from the Hood in Hood River and H2Oregon in The Dalles.

The plant would use 225 gallons per minute of the spring water. The state says the spring flows with at least 600 gallons a minute.

City officials whose interest was piqued by the prospects of jobs, a doubled property-tax base and filling 25 acres of underused industrial land along the Columbia River say the project should get approval. Kitzhaber hasn't taken a position yet.

Lance Masters, Cascade Locks' mayor, criticized the involvement of "special interest groups, some from as far away as Washington, D.C., trying to influence what happens in our little town."

"In their attempt to stop Nestle, they could be dealing a death blow to a town that's re-

ally struggling for survival," Masters said.

State Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland, said she and about a dozen other legislators will ask Kitzhaber to tell the Fish and Wildlife Department not to swap water rights with the city.

"It allows a private multinational corporation to use a public resource for the economically and environmentally unsustainable practice of bottled water," said Dingfelder, chairwoman of the Senate's natural resources and environment committee.

Under state law, she said, there's no requirement for a thorough review of the plant's potential environmental consequences, from water drawdowns to increased truck traffic.

Opponents say Nestlé's checkered history in other communities _ and a likely 50-year operating agreement with Cascade Locks _ indicate the city and the hatchery would have little recourse if water runs short.

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