

Inspiring Parents at KNT



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Jeri Lynn Brunoe (above) and Dirlle Calica (below) were speakers at the conference.

The Warm Springs Community Counseling Center hosted the annual Parenting Conference in April at Kah-Nee-Ta.

When planning the conference, "We wanted to bring in speakers in the profession who are tribal members," explained Caroline Cruz, Human Services general manager. Among the speakers were Jeri Brunoe and Dirlle Calica.

Brunoe spoke of her grandmother's influence on her life, and of the times in her life when she relied on her teachings.

"Your life is like a book and you are the author," encouraged Brunoe, during the first of two keynote addresses, discussing positive thinking.

Dirlle Calica, attorney, shared her experience with the Canoe Journey, and a cul-

tural exchange with the Maori people of New Zealand.

When asked by the audience about her formula for success, Calica replied, "Be motivated, set goals, and ask yourself, 'What am I going to do today that will help me accomplish that goal.'"

Nearly 100 parents, grandparents and employees who provide services to the community were able to experience the two-day conference.



Driver accidentally takes down fiber line

Last Friday afternoon, a Warm Springs garbage truck pulled down fiber lines from telephone poles on Hollywood in front of DMJ Automotive.

Police immediately moved in to shut down the "four-corners" intersection, stopping traffic headed south. The truck driver, who reported the incident, was unharmed.

The power supply to DMJ was uninterrupted, as Public Utilities determined that the line which was pulled down by the truck was, in fact, a fiber line.

Police noted that there were no sparks coming from the line, but there was smoke.

A resident in Elliot Heights reported that a line outside their residence had become loose.



Duran Bobb/Spilyay

Everett Windyboy watches as James Melvin calls for help.

PP&L was contacted immediately, and a short time later police reported a code 4 (okay), and began working on lifting the fiber line to allow the flow of traffic to re-

sume. There was no damage to any of the power poles, though Internet to some was interrupted.

— by Duran Bobb

Compromise sought in mascots use

SALEM (AP) – Opponents of a proposal to ban the use of Native American names and images as mascots for Oregon high schools are seeking a waiver to allow districts to work out agreements with local tribes.

The Oregon Board of

Education is considering a rule that would strip state funding from any school or district that continues to use a Native American mascot after July 1, 2017.

The rule defines "mascot" as any name, symbol or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, in-

dividual, custom or tradition. A vote is expected at the board's meeting May 17.

Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, a Republican from Scio, proposed the waiver option, saying it would bring "respectful dialogue within a community."

News from Indian Country

Feds closer to first tribal national park

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – As the National Park Service and Department of Interior move closer to creating the nation's first national park managed by an American Indian tribe, new details about what the park could look like are being released, including plans to establish a free-roaming bison herd.

The National Park Service and the Interior Department on Thursday released the final version of a plan that would establish the first national tribal park at the South Unit of Badlands National Park, which is entirely within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Congress must still approve the establishment of the park, but last week's announcement means the National Park Service and the Oglala Sioux tribe can begin implementing parts of the plan and identifying what a tribal national park looks like.

"As we seek to tell a more inclusive story of America, a tribal national park would help celebrate and honor the history and culture of the Oglala Sioux people," Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said in a statement.

The U.S. government's War Department took what is now the South Unit from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to establish a practice bombing range in the 1940s. It was returned to the Oglala Sioux tribe in 1976 and has since been co-managed with the Park Service. The tribe began pushing for greater control of the unit's 133,300 acres about a decade ago, after they disagreed with the Park Service's plans for the land.

The plan released Thursday recommends Congress create a new designation for a tribal national park. Depending on Congressional action, it could be administered several different ways, including as a unit of NPS managed by tribal members who work as NPS employees or by tribal members who work for the tribe.

Eric Brunnemann, superintendent of the Badlands National Park, said one goal is to create a free-roaming, economically viable herd of bison at the park as part of the Park Service's plan to establish and sustain at least three wild bison herds in the central and western United

States over the next 100 years.

"We have tried for many years to put buffalo into the South Unit, but because the parcels are so small, you can't really succeed," Brunnemann said.

He said officials are working with non-governmental organizations to test and study the viability of piecing together parcels to allow for a free-roaming herd in the area and working with donors for funding.

"No one wants to go down the path of a good idea if it's going to unravel," he said. "We need to have the science and the economics at the table, hand in hand."

The plan calls for the Park Service and Oglala Sioux tribe to enhance the wildlife habitat and improve roads and trails for visitors in the park.

At least 95 percent of the facilities for visitor use and park management are located in the North Unit, which is connected to Interstate 90 and draws more than 900,000 visitors annually. The South Unit draws around 9,500 visitors, according to the National Park Service.

Tribal group gets ancestral land in Mendocino

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – A Northern California Native American group is getting its ancestral land back.

San Francisco-based Save the Redwoods League announced this week that it had donated 160 acres in northwestern Mendocino County to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. The donation was made in exchange for a conservation easement that will prevent the land from being developed.

This is the first time that the Redwoods

League has entered into a conservation agreement with a tribal group, said Ruskin Hartley, executive director of Save the Redwoods League.

"(The council's) focus on the traditional, cultural use of the land and our focus on its natural values are in alignment here," Hartley said.

The land that was transferred – a forest-rimmed meadow known as the Four Corners that lies next to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park – includes the headwater of the Mattole River, home to coho salmon.

It holds particular signifi-

cance to Native Americans. It is believed to have served as a tribal meeting place for hundreds of years.

"Our ancestors' spirits now are dancing in the wind and the trees knowing that Mother Earth will be saved there and protected," Priscilla Hunter, the chairwoman and co-founder of the InterTribal council, said.

The council represents 10 federally recognized tribes with ties to the region.

It aims to restore Native American stewardship over the area and has previously established a 3,800-acre wilderness there.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at the Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave, Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944.

REUSE IT SECONDHAND. Located at the corner of Warm Springs St. & Hollywood Blvd. Open Wednesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ph. 541-553-1041

PIONEER ROCK & MONUMENT. 201 Crafton Rd POB 348 Goldendale, Wa 98620 509-773-4702. Specializing in Native American Design. SALE! Free B&W photo plate OR 10% off with purchase of upright monuments only, if paid in full by Mar. 31, 2012 (up to \$200 value). www.pioneerrock.com www.betterheadstones.com Find map to our shop under CONTACTS on website