

## Letters to the Editor



Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr. is shown here holding a Pendleton Blanket, given to him by Prineville Men's Wear in Prineville.

Alfred has indicated that he has gotten a lot of support from businesses and individuals throughout the Central Oregon region.

Please know that Alfred appreciates everyone's support and has dedicated himself to the people of Warm Springs and continues support of businesses in Madras.

Family of Chief Smith.

### Dinner, giveaway for Chief

To the people of Warm Springs,

We had originally planned on having a dinner and giveaway to celebrate the naming of the Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr. on December 1. Due to a death in the family we are postponing the dinner and giveaway.

As soon as we have a rescheduled time, we will put notices out; it will most likely be within the next two to three months.

Thank you,  
The Family of Alfred Smith Jr.

The next deadline to submit letters to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, Dec. 7. Thank you for writing!

### Court matter

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has always done everything possible to protect our Reserved Treaty Rights, especially in matters pertaining to Tribal Law. The Warm Springs leadership of the mid nineteenth century was the last body of tribal representatives that mutually worked together for the benefit of its members and future generations. One of the most distinguishing accomplishments that I am very proud of today is the fact that we are only one of two tribes exempt from Public Law 280. Quite an accomplishment considering that these leaders were never formally educated but explicitly understood our "Oral Tradition" of our Reserved Treaty Rights, as understood and passed down from our elders generation to generation.

Recently during the Wasco Chieftainship meetings one of the candidates, George Clements Sr., commented on his concerns pertaining to recent changes to Tribal Law. The changes are very contradictory to the "Oral Tradition" I heard from my elders.

Every tribal member should be alarmed and asking questions of their respective representatives regarding the elimination of our Appellate Court. That is a major violation of tribal members' "Due Process" rights. I speculate one could even assert this is in violation of the Indian Civil Rights Act! Ignoring this "Matter of Great Concern" could in reality eliminate our exempt status from Public Law 280, also something my elders emphasized as bad.

At the risk of sounding redundant I must once again encourage our current members of the Tribal Council to act expediently to prudently resolve the Appellate Court situation. We should never allow an employee of the tribe to express changes to our legal system, especially if they are very contradictory to our "Oral Tradition," which will ultimately impact our unique sovereign status, eliminate our exempt status from Public Law 280. Ignoring your obligation to truly represent and protect future generations of tribal members, contemplate the consequences of multiple legal jurisdictions operating within our reservation boundary. It

might sound minuscule to most tribal members, however, the consequences of multiple jurisdictions within one's sovereignty territory has detrimental impacts, just ask any Native American Nation in America.

Thank you,  
Randy Smith.

### Cultural Trust

Warm Springs Cultural Trust Grant Applications are now available at the Museum at Warm Springs and also on line at: warmsprings.com (on the 'links' page).

Completed applications are due to the museum by Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. Projects must occur between January to June 2013. If you have questions, contact Roz at 553-3331.

### Youth hunters

We are looking for youth who are interested in ceremonial hunting. The last day to hunt is December 2.

Call Minnie at the Tribal Council office for more information.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee.

### Gift donations welcome at ECE

The Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Center is collecting food for the holiday season to gift families in need.

If anyone would like to make a donation of canned food, or any non-perishable food items, please bring them to the ECE front desk.

Donations will be taken until the end of November. If you have any questions contact Jodi Begay at 541-553-3241. In December, ECE will be accepting hats, mittens and scarves to go into gift baskets and donations will be taken til December 14 at the donation boxes in ECE.

## How the fly saved the river

(Note: The following article is submitted by the Warm Springs Community Health Education Team [CHET] to raise awareness of World AIDS Day, Saturday, Dec. 1. The theme of the day this year is, 'Getting to Zero.')

Many, many years ago when the world was new, there was a beautiful river. Fish in great numbers lived in this river, and its water was so pure and sweet that all the animals came there to drink.

A giant moose heard about the river and he too came there to drink. But he was so big, and he drank so much, that soon the water began to sink lower and lower.

The beavers were worried. The water around their lodges was disappearing. Soon their homes would be destroyed. The muskrats were worried. The other animals could live on land if the water dried up, but they couldn't.

All the animals tried to think of a way to drive the moose from the river, but he

was so big that they were too afraid to try. Even the bear was afraid of him.

At last the fly said he would drive the moose away. All the animals laughed and jeered. How could a tiny fly frighten a giant moose?

The fly said nothing, but that day, as soon as they moose appeared, he went into action. He landed on the moose's foreleg and bit sharply. The moose stamped his foot harder, and each time he stamped, the ground sank and the water rushed in to fill it up.

Then the fly jumped about all over the moose, biting and biting until the moose was in a frenzy. He dashed madly about the banks of the river, shaking his head, stamping his feet, snorting and blowing, but he couldn't get rid of that pesky fly.

At last the moose fled from the river, and didn't come back. The fly was very proud of his achievement,

and boasted to the other animals, "Even the small can fight the strong if they use their brains to think."

### New challenge

Throughout history Native people encountered and survived much trauma, disease, and discrimination.

Today American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians face a new challenge: Preventing HIV/AIDS from spreading and wiping out whole Native communities.

After two decades of AIDS work, many Native communities now realize that prevention does make a difference.

In the story above, the tiny fly drives away the moose despite great doubt from the other animals. Similarly, Native people—though small in numbers compared to other ethnic groups—must overcome the beast of HIV/AIDS.



Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb looks forward to the holidays!

## Gillnet fish fight turns to commission

(AP) — The future of commercial fishing on the Columbia River is now in the hands of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission after a measure to ban gillnets failed earlier this month at the polls.

The measure was opposed by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; and at the same time had little active campaign support.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission now faces the tough task of mediating the longstanding conflict between commercial and recreational fishing interests by the end of the year.

After years of stalemate, Gov. Kitzhaber has asked the commission to come up with new commercial fishing regulations that phase out the use of gillnets on the Columbia.

Gillnets snag fish by the gills and are the primary

method of commercial fishing on the Columbia.

Critics contend that they're cruel to fish and slow the restoration of salmon populations because they can't differentiate endangered fish from targeted species.

But commercial fishermen say gillnets have been used for centuries and the controversy surrounding them is drummed up by sport anglers who want to eliminate competition for salmon.

After unsuccessful attempts to persuade the Legislature to ban gillnets, sport-fishing and environmental groups went directly to the people with a ballot initiative that spooked commercial fishermen who feared being put out of business. They spent nearly \$700,000 but ultimately abandoned the effort after Kitzhaber an-

*With only opponents actively campaigning, Measure 80 went down, 66 percent to 34 percent.*

nounced his bid for a compromise.

The governor proposed phasing in a ban on gillnets on the main stem of the Columbia while allowing them to continue operating on side channels and beefing up the hatchery operations in those areas.

With only opponents actively campaigning, Measure 80 went down, 66 percent to 34 percent.

Commercial fishermen have taken a skeptical view

of the governor's proposal, saying there's not enough space or fish in side channels to accommodate the demand.

"We've already given everything that we can give," said Bill Hunsinger, a lifelong commercial fisherman. "If we give away the main stem, there's no way the industry can exist. It just can't."

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has fielded dozens of spirited comments from people on both sides of the issue.

Washington is experimenting with seine nets, an alternative that's currently illegal in Oregon. Officials say it will be several years before they know whether seines result in a lower mortality rate for endangered fish. Commercial fishermen question whether seines would be commercially viable on the Columbia.

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