

Tribes withdraw from gaming alliance

The Tribal Council voted unanimously to withdraw from the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance.

Paiute Chief Joe Moses brought the matter up at a Council meeting early last week.

He said the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance has caused trouble for Warm Springs in the past; and he suggested the tribes forego the annual \$5,000 membership fee. Other Council members agreed:

The Oregon tribes are clearly not unified on gam-

ing issues, said Councilman Raymond Tsumpti.

Also, the alliance has mentioned its effort to protect tribal sovereignty. "Our sovereignty is our issue and ours alone," said Councilman Tsumpti.

The gaming alliance opposed the Portland private casino proposals last year. Tactics used in that campaign were similar to the ones used against Warm Springs when the tribes were trying to develop a casino at Cascade Locks, said Councilman J.P. Patt. "It's not an alliance," he said. "They oppose us on some things."

Councilman Ron Suppah said Warm Springs takes care of its own business. If Warm Springs withdraws from the alliance, "I don't think we would miss anything," he said.

Councilwoman Lola Sohappi suggested the Confederated Tribes send a letter to the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance, indicating that Warm Springs is withdrawing.

The Council then voted unanimously to withdraw from the alliance.

Case could shape Native adoptions

(AP) – The U.S. Supreme Court is set to decide a case that could outline the limits of a law on Native American adoptions written by a former U.S. senator from South Dakota.

That former senator, Jim Abourezk, said he hopes the high court can look beyond the emotion involved in the case and affirm the importance of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act.

The case in question, *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, involves a 3-year-old Cherokee girl whose mother gave her up for adoption before birth after her father sent a text message consenting to a loss of his parental rights.

The father later said he had consented only to put pressure on the girl's mother, with whom he has a rocky relationship.

The couple that adopted the girl took her home from the hospital as an infant, but said goodbye after the Supreme Court of South Caro-

lina ruled that the act requires special consideration be granted Native American parents.

Abourezk told the Minnehaha County Democratic Forum recently that a case such as the one in South Carolina is difficult. A case such as that should not, he said, call into question the importance of a law intended to guard against a repeat of the loss of heritage historically associated with the adoption of Native American children.

He said he's taken calls from across the U.S. asking him to support a change in the law based on the South Carolina case.

"The Indian tribes were being decimated by white social service agencies," Abourezk said of the reasoning behind the law. "You don't change a whole law because of one case. It's worked fairly well most of the time."

The decision by the Supreme Court to decide the adoption case that turns on the interpretation of the act comes barely more than a year after a series of reports on National Public Radio highlighting the law from a different angle.

The reports suggested that the state systematically was placing Native American children with white foster families and giving too few opportunities to Native American foster families.

The series prompted some in Congress to call on a coalition of tribes to prepare a report on Indian Child Welfare Act violations.

"It's a terrible shame, what's been going on (with foster families)," Abourezk said.

The high court's decision to take up the South Carolina case came Jan. 4, days before the start of an Aberdeen witness tampering case that drew the attention of

Native American activists and child welfare advocates.

Former Brown County Deputy State's Attorney Brandon Taliaferro and court-appointed special advocate Shirley Schwab were accused of targeting a foster mother named Wendy Mette for wrongful prosecution after she and her husband's Native American foster children reported that the husband had raped them repeatedly.

The husband, Richard Mette, was convicted of first-degree rape.

The state Division of Criminal Investigation accused Taliaferro and Schwab of tampering with a witness to bring charges of abuse and neglect against Wendy Mette. Those charges against the mother were dropped in 2011.

Last week, a judge dismissed the case against Taliaferro and Schwab in a courtroom filled with supporters of the pair.

Abourezk agrees with those who said the two were targeted by the DCI for "blowing the whistle about what was going on" with the adoption of Native American children.

Concerns about the Mettes surfaced twice in the 2000s, but they still were allowed to take in more children.

A DCI agent testified last week that the victim in the Mette case never changed her story or said Taliaferro or Schwab had pressured her into speaking.

Defense lawyer Mike Butler of Sioux Falls was asked after the trial why he thought the charges against the advocates were brought.

"I would like to know the answer to that," he told the American News of Aberdeen.

Beadle County State's Attorney Michael Moore said he respects the court's decision but disagrees.

Council looking at video-conferencing

Tribal Council last week voted to assess the possibility of video-conferencing with tribal attorneys. This could save on travel time by the attorneys, said Councilman Scott Moses, who introduced

the idea. The tribal Office of Information Systems (OIS) or a third party could provide the service, Councilman Moses said.

Tribal Councilman J.P. Patt commented that other

tribes are using video-conferencing technology. He added that Warm Springs should also look at going paperless with Tribal Council documents, as another cost-saving measure.

Warm Springs Chamber Notes

Tourism project focus of discussion; market set for this summer

Warm Springs Chamber of Commerce members and prospective members met earlier this month for discussion of a Central Oregon tourism project.

The project is called River Canyon Country Rural Tourism, an idea in the third phase of input and evaluation.

Participating communities include Warm Springs, Prineville, Culver, Madras Maupin and all the small interesting places and canyons in between.

The process is being facili-

tated by Travel Oregon. For more information, go to:

TravelOregon.com

Warm Springs members and businesses have been engaged in the process since its inception.

Warm Springs branding and merchant promotion has matured to where individuals and groups are recognizing the opportunity and benefit of collective marketing to stretch advertising dollars.

Information on marketing is being mailed directly to merchants and other inter-

ested parties. In other Chamber notes:

Business owners interested in hosting a Java Jump Start, please call me at 541-553-3148 ext. 12.

There are several opportunities available to introduce yourself and/or product to other chamber members and businesses.

Now is a good time to let the community know about you and your product or service.

Reminder: There will be a Warm Springs Farmers Mar-

ket opportunity this summer and fall.

Whether you are a purchaser, seller or both, start planning now for healthful summer food and preserves.

The February 12 Warm Springs Chamber meeting will focus on bringing first time visitors to the Warm Springs Reservation. The March 12 Chamber meeting will include nomination and election of 2013-14 officers.

If you want your voice in the room, show up and speak up. **Patricia Gainsforth**

Indian Business Talk

Farm Service Agency loan program helps smaller growers

By **Bruce Engle**

Loan officer

W.S. Credit Enterprise

The Farm Service Agency announced a new "smaller farm" microloan program last Wednesday.

Loans can be up to

\$35,000 for operating expenses. Those could include:

Initial start-up expenses; annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, etc; marketing and distribution expenses; purchase of livestock, equipment, and other materials essential to farm operations; minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers;

tools, irrigation and delivery vehicles.

Caution: These loans are small and the application process is simpler than usual but **profits are expected.**

What does that mean? A family garden would not qualify. Buying bred heifers might require you to bring something to the table. Cash

is always good.

Creditworthiness is a must! An existing operation that just needs a little help might qualify.

FSA will have the answers and the applications.

Patty or Julie can be contacted at 541-573-6446. Their office is in Hines and they do travel.

Legal Aid offers free service

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Phone Legal Aid Services of Oregon to schedule an appointment to speak with an attorney on the first Monday of the month (excluding Holidays) at the Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave., Warm Springs. Call (541) 385-6944 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, or on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Heart Smart Dinner

The Annual Heart Smart Dinner will be held on February 27 at the Agency Longhouse from 4 til 8 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers and donations of household items for the raffle. Contact Kat Spaulding at 541-553-4122, if you would like to help.

Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, Feb. 1. Thank you!

To advertise in the Spilyay, Call Yvonne at 541-553-2210.

RENEW YOUR

BURN PERMITS!!

↓ PERMIT HOLDER SHALL BE ON SITE DURING BURN!

↓ BURNING IS ONLY VALID AT ADDRESS ON PERMIT; BURN AREA SHALL BE SAFE & SECURED! SAFE= WATER SOURCE, HAND TOOLS

↓ REMINDER: IT DOES SAY "CALL WSPD" WHEN UPON STARTING YOUR DESIGNATED BURN!

↓ WEATHER CHANGES THROUGH OUT THE SEASON, CHECK FIRE LEVELS AT ALL TIMES!

↓ DO NOT BURN ON WINDY DAYS PERIOD!



QUESTIONS/ CONCERNS
541-553-1146 ext.1150

www.opaldayspa.com

Opal Day Spa

READY FOR A CHANGE?

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Color & Cut Special

Back to School

\$49.95

*Call for details.

M-F 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Like us on for exclusive specials

541-475-4677

162 SW 5th Street, Madras