

Letters to the editor

First Salmon

This year the spring chinook arrived just as they have for thousands of years. Up and down the river their arrival is greeted by the tribal people.

The songs that are part of the ancient First Salmon feasts honoring the salmon's return are heard in longhouses throughout the region. To me, the feasts are a reminder of how truly blessed tribal people are to have salmon return each year, to feed and provide for our physical and spiritual needs.

They are also a reminder of the spirit and richness of tribal culture—a culture that it is still strong and connected to the land that we call home.

In my meetings with state and federal agency representatives and officials, I often encourage them to take part in one of these ceremonies. Too often, in the day-to-day fights over the salmon as a resource, they can lose sight of the fact that the salmon are a gift from the Creator.

When non-Indians witness and take part in a First Salmon ceremony, they not only see how important these sacred fish are to the tribes, they also see salmon and tribal people in a whole new light.

The tribes do not have a monopoly on caring for and honoring the salmon. However, we've been doing it for a long time. And we have a lot of wisdom to share with the region on what we've learned.

Now, in this era of growing returns, the region is seeing the results of the tribes' leadership and expertise to restore and rebuild the Columbia River basin's salmon runs.

Paul Lumley, executive director Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Spring cleanup

A group of students from Sojour Collegiate Ministry at Boston University visited Warm Springs on their spring break to conduct service work.

A total of 44 people, primarily students from colleges throughout the Boston area, participated.

They did a deep clean of the three longhouses, a community-wide clean up in Simnasho, picked up trash at Elmer Quinn Park, cleared the OSU Extension Garden, and helped out at the Museum At Warm Springs, High Lookee Lodge and more.

They did this work with

smiles, laughter and enthusiasm over their spring break.

I wanted to extend my gratitude to the tribe for providing some funding so that we could have a few meals when they were working in the longhouses.

I am especially thankful for Charlotte Herkshan, who led the charge for three of those meals, donated food and made a lot of cakes and pies.

She also spent time with the students, cleaning and keeping me on task!

Thank you to Orvie Danzuka for his help during the Simnasho cleanup. He came with his truck and hauled out nine truckloads of trash.

A big thank you to Captain Moody, his wife Nonie and his son for coming to the longhouse to help out and to share our culture as well as the donation of water.

Also thank you Linda and Phillip David for donating water for the group, and Sheila Danzuka for donating huckleberries.

Thank you to Ken Kippley, who talked with the students about the Warm Springs Police Department.

I also want to thank Starla Green for taking the lead on coordinating the cleaning efforts at both Agency and HeHe longhouses.

Thank you to Wilson Wewa for putting together a hot meal for the students when they were at HeHe Longhouse, and getting swim passes for the group.

I also appreciate Kah-Nee-Ta Resort & Spa for providing passes and reduced rates, and the museum for providing free access to both groups.

Also thank you to KWSO, Three Warriors and Red Skye Pawn Shop for donating gifts for the students.

I appreciate the work that Utilities did so that we had necessary supplies on hand.

Thank you to all the community members who jumped in and helped and stopped by to say hello to the students.

Finally, I want to thank my Mom who stood by my side and put much more work into the last two weeks than I. She helped organize, cook, get supplies from point A to point B, stayed with the students for several full days, cleaned, and so much more.

It was only by chance that I crossed paths with the organizers on Twitter and played connect the dots for them in the community.

I was very inspired by their kindness and generosity and many of them shared wonderful thoughts about their

trip here. Thank you again to community for being a part of that!

Alyssa Macy

Vote Matters

The upcoming 509-J school district board election will decide two of five positions that make decisions in the best interest of our families and communities. As someone who went through this school district, and who hopes to have children go through it someday, I hope people realize the importance of electing fair, capable and experienced people who are committed to a better education for all students.

My experience at Warm Springs Elementary, the Jefferson County middle school and Madras High School (Class of 2005) leads me to believe that 509-J has a great opportunity to do better.

We need to work toward uniting communities, creating meaningful dialogue among students, and increasing support for our educators. We need to narrow gaps and work together to offer up a world class education and nurture healthy, empowered citizens who care about one another.

I am writing this letter to ask you to vote for my mom, Sue Matters, for school board position 4. She believes: All kids deserve an excellent education; that education matters; that every voice needs to be heard and respected; and that the district budget must consistently support the schools' goals.

Vote Sue Matters for 509-J position 4.

Carina Miller.

Diabetes talk

The Diabetes Awareness and Support Group is hosted by the IHS Warm Springs Model Diabetes Program and Warm Spring Senior Program.

They have dinner and share information on the third Tuesday of each month, from 5-6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The April 21 topic of discussion is Fitness, with wellness coordinator Edmund Francis.

The May 19 topic will be, 'How does diabetes and blood pressure affect the kidneys.'

Tournament

The United Auburn Indian Community Handgame Tournament is coming up at Lincoln, Calif.,

April 24-26.

Open games are at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24; handgame tournament is at 2 p.m. on Saturday; and the Bone Hog tourney is at 2 on Sunday.

The prize for first place in the handgame tournament is \$8,000; second place \$3,000; third, \$2,000; and fourth \$1,000.

This is an outdoor event. Lunch and dinner are provided on Saturday, \$125 per team, cash only.

For more information call 916-408-7777; or email: Auburnrancheria.com

Folklife

We are pleased to announce that the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the Oregon Folklife Network funding to conduct field surveys and documentation of traditions in the Gorge region, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Jefferson, Wasco, Hood River, Sherman and Gilliam counties.

The Oregon Folklife Network is looking to document a variety of culture keepers from different ethnic and regional groups, as well as farm and waterways traditions, ranching, foodways, old time music, quilting, auctioneering, etc.

The Folklife Network partners with local and state organizations to refer tradition bearers and folk artists organizations, libraries or festivals. We also preserve this documentation in our archives.

Please tell us about folks in those areas who are known for their traditional music making, quilting, beadwork, storytelling, cooking, saddle making, fly tying, chain saw carving, trapping, taxidermy, basket making, etc. We're very interested in the range of possibilities...

To provide the Folklife Network with contact information for tradition keepers, contact Riki Saltzman at:

riki@uoregon.edu
Or Emily West at, 541-346-3820; or email: eafanado@uoregon.edu
Nancy Nusz, 503-985-9128

Numu classes

The Culture and Heritage Department is hosting Numu Language Classes for youth and the community at the Warm Springs Eagle Academy, and at the Education building.

The classes are Mondays from 7-7:45 a.m., and on Thursdays from 3:30-5 p.m.,

in the academy Community Room.

At the Education building the community study group, for all ages (under 8 with adult), are on Wednesdays

from 4-6 p.m.

For more information call the Culture and Heritage Department at 541-553-3290.

Mushroom permits required

For most mushroom gatherers, a permit is required to harvest on the Warm Springs Reservation.

A permit is not required for a tribal member who collects less than one gallon of mushrooms on the reservation or in the state of Oregon. Otherwise, a

permit is required.

Permits are free to tribal members, and are available at the Forestry office. Stop by Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For information call 541-553-2416.

If you are found without a permit, you may be cited.

Home for sale

Home for sale - \$297,500. Tenino Valley, Warm Springs. 2,963 sq ft home on 5 acres free land. Upper level: 1,750 sq ft. Three bedroom, two bath with attached 2-car garage. Deck and patio area. Lower level: 254 sq ft office and storage area; 960 sq ft two bdrm one bath apartment with outside entry and patio. 1,344 sq ft barn and 20'x10' storage building. 541-553-1241.

For those medical questions...

The Warm Springs Health & Wellness Center Nurse Hotline



866-470-2015

- * My baby is coughing. Should I take her to the clinic?
- * How can I treat my sore throat at home?
- * Should my medical issue be treated at the emergency room?

MIGIZE PENSONEAU FROM 1491s IS COMING!

FREE PRESENTATION Sunday, **April 19, 2015**
5 to 7 p.m., Pioneer Hall, Hitchcock Auditorium, COCC, Bend



MIGIZE PENSONEAU (Ponca/Ojibwe) was born and raised in Minnesota, and attended Wesleyan University. Migizi has worked for several Hollywood studios and independent production companies as a contract writer and a producer for film and television. He is the recipient of awards, fellowships and grants from ABC/Disney, The Institute of American Indian Arts, the Sundance Institute, and the Lannan Foundation, among others. Migizi has published several pieces on American Indians and popular culture. He is currently pursuing his MFA in Creative Writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, and is an adjunct lecturer Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, MT. He is a founding member of the 1491s.



Questions? Gina Ricketts:
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