



Spilyay Tymoo

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25th Seniors Day

The weather held out again for another incredible Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day. It was cold earlier in the week, and then it rained afterward, but last Friday was sunny and mild: "We must be doing something right," said Wilson Wewa, director of the Senior Program and Senior Day master of ceremonies. All the volunteers came through for the day, and the door prize donations were very generous, he said. The lunch this year was Indian Tacos, which proved to be a very popular choice. Dinner included the traditional salmon bake. The students at the Early Childhood Education hosted their Seniors Day Powwow, and this year a couple got married during this memorable occasion (see page 3).



Alyssa Macy photos.



Ventures to fill key positions

Warm Springs Ventures is taking the next step in developing the Tribal Employment Rights Office, or TERO. Ventures is advertising for a TERO director.

Ventures meanwhile is also looking for a business development and marketing manager, to oversee the business and financial growth of the economic enterprise.

The TERO program has potential for significant job growth among tribal members.

The TERO requirements apply on the reservation, and also within a 60-mile radius of the reservation boundary.

The TERO director will work with the contractors and subcontractors, ensuring tribal member access to the employment opportunities.

These would include construction work such as Oregon Department of Transportation projects. The range of the Warm Springs TERO is from Bend to The Dalles, the largest in Oregon and among the largest in the U.S.

The Grand Ronde and Umatilla tribes have TERO programs, which served as models for the Warm Springs program, approved by Tribal Council earlier this year. (See page 3 for summary descriptions of the TERO director and Ventures business development and marketing manager positions. Or contact Ventures at 541-553-3565.)

Council addressing fossil fuel transport issue

Fossil fuel transport through the Columbia River Gorge is of increasing concern to the Confederated Tribes.

There is one specific coal-transport proposal that the tribes are actively opposing, at Coyote Island, Port of Morrow. But there are many other projects in various stages of planning and development.

The tribes should take a comprehensive approach to deal with this problem, said Councilman Carlos Smith, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The tribes cannot take on each project as they come up, he said, because there are too many of them in recent years. Instead, the tribes need a set of policies that will apply to all these types of projects.

Councilman Smith suggested the Branch of Natural Resources create a position that is dedicated to the Columbia-Deschutes rivers fossil fuel transport issue.

Tribal Council met with CRITFC staff earlier this week, discussing the subject in detail. CRITFC policy analyst Julie Carter shared information she has been collecting for some time.

She shared information on several coal and oil transport projects in Oregon and Washington. The transport route to and from these refineries and transport sites is through the Columbia Gorge, mainly by rail and barge.

It is not clear how much oil is being transported, as the companies do not publicly disclose this information, but the amount is clearly significant.

One concern for the tribes is that a derailment could be a disaster for fisheries. Derailments and explosions of fossil fuel transport trains happen with some frequency: There have been several high-profile oil-by-rail accidents in the last couple of months.

Last week in North Dakota, for instance, an oil-transport train derailed, causing a six-tank car explosion, forcing the evacuation of a nearby town.

Council directed the tribes' emergency manager Dan Martinez to monitor the number of oil transport rail cars that are traveling through the reservation.

Council also directed staff to look at the rail leases that are on the reservation, and their renewal status.

Coyote Island

The concern at Coyote Island involves a coal transport proposal. The issue at Coyote Island is the loss of an established tribal fishing site, among the last remaining in that area.

At the Council meeting this week, Bruce Jim listed some of members, himself included, who fish at this site. There is evidence at the site, and in official documents with CRITFC Enforcement and other entities, that show this is a usual and accustomed fishing place, Jim said.

See FISHERIES on 12

Year 5 of horse removal

The Branch of Natural Resources Range and Ag Department is in year five of the Warm Springs Reservation horse removal program.

The spring 2015 inventory will show the current state of the excess or unwanted horse population on the reservation.

The program so far has proven to be a success: The initial goal in 2011 was to remove 500 excess horses per year; and Range and Ag has far exceeded that number.

The herds of unclaimed horses cause several problems on the reservation: They destroy fish habitat, and reduce habitat for



Courtesy Range & Ag/BNR

The problem is evident in this photo of unclaimed horses roaming the reservation.

deer and elk. They deplete land that could be used for livestock and agriculture, and degrade the rangeland.

Jason Smith, Range and Ag director, estimates there were more than 6,000 excess or unwanted horses roaming the reservation in 2011.

That year, the removal program brought in more than 1,200 of the animals. In 2012, seven-hundred were removed; in 2013 another 1,245; and in 2014, more than 1,300. The total number removed at that point was about 4,450. The spring inventory will show the current situation.

Range and Ag follows a set of detailed guidelines in removing the animals.

The department developed the policies with input from grazing, agriculture, fish and wildlife, and other interested parties. Anyone interested can review the guidelines at the Branch of Natural Resources.

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See page 12 for more

Comedian plans laughs in W.S.

Native American comedian Mitch Factor will perform at the Warm Springs Community Center on Thursday, May 28. Dinner will be at 5:30, and the show starts at 6:30.

The show will include a joke contest, with Mitch offering a cash prize for the best joke. The event is sponsored by Warm Springs Community Counseling and the Native Aspirations Coalition.

Mitch is one of the top Indian comedians in the U.S. He has performed for thousands over the last 10 years, from Alaska to Germany, and most of Indian Country, at national Indian conferences, casinos, powwows, banquets, etc.

Mitch is a Seminole and Menominee Indian, born the youngest of 10 children in Oklahoma. He has been involved in Head Start for many years, and worked as a teacher and education manager at Head Start. He performs comedy because he loves to see people laugh together.

His topics include children, relationships, teachers, getting older, and the Indian way of life.



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