

# Coming to Light at PAC

The Madras Performing Arts Center will host a free showing of the documentary *Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians*. The showing be at 4 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 3.

Created by Native American director Anne Peacemaker, the documentary tells the dramatic story of the life of self-taught photographer Edward S. Curtis, who spent 30 years photographing scores of North American tribes at the turn of the century.

As he documented the lives of Native people through intimate portraits, scenic tableaux and quiet studies, Curtis found his own life forever changed.

Curtis' 20-volume collection of photos includes pictures of Wishram, Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Klamath people. In the movie, Hopi, Navajo, Cupig, Blackfeet, Piegan, Suquamish and Kwakiuti people, many related to those in his photos, tell stories about the people in the photographs.

The movie premiered at Sundance in 2000, and was an Academy Award finalist for best feature documentary in 2001.



Wishram bride photo by Edward Curtis.

*Coming to Light* presents a complex, dedicated, flawed life, and explores many of the ironies inherent in Curtis's story, the often controversial nature of his romantic images, and the value of the photographs to Indian people and to all Americans today.

Madras Performing Arts Center director Shannon Ahern partnered with the A6

Galery and Studio in Bend, and the Museum at Warm Springs to bring the documentary to Madras.

The A6 Gallery has organized a two-month exhibit on Curtis, featuring over 50 of his original photographs, move showings and speakers, including Elizabeth Woody. The A6 Gallery show runs through October 31.

## Ventures to host information meeting

Please join Warm Springs Ventures in the Warm Springs Community Center social hall next Tuesday, Oct. 6, or Wednesday, Oct. 7, for a discussion about tribal economic development opportunities with cannabis.

There will be a presentation about the investigation and research conducted to date, examining

the legal and jurisdictional issues, regulations, cultivation, and sale of medical and recreational marijuana and hemp; and the potential tribal revenues and jobs.

Ventures staff and board will discuss draft language for a possible tribal referendum vote this fall or winter.

The meeting will not address the issue of personal use or criminal laws on the

Warm Springs Reservation. That issue will be addressed at a later date.

Ventures will share what information they have been able to gather, followed by a question and answer session. Your opinion is very important, Ventures welcomes your input. If you have any questions please call 541-553-3565.

## 4-H preparing for Science Day event

Warm Springs 4-H will host and present the Annual 4-H National Youth Science Day on Friday, Oct. 9.

The day starts at 10 a.m., and is held in the OSU basement kitchen at the Education building.

Youth in grades fourth and older are welcome to register to participate. October 9 is a statewide in-service day, and there is no school.

National Youth Science Day is an annual event in which clubs and groups from all over the U.S. get together and complete science experiments exploring real life science issues. This year's project is called *Motion Motion*.

This will be a physics-based lesson exploring the effects of forces such as speed, reaction time, and

gravity of objects in motion.

The final discussion will look at applying the experimental data to real world issues, such as distracted driving. Please call 541-553-3238 to register. A light and healthy snack will be provided.

It is not necessary to be enrolled in 4-H to participate. Call the above number for any questions as well.

## Nutrition education in schools

The Warm Springs OSU Extension SNAP Education staff are gearing up for nutrition education at the Eagle K-8 Academy and the Early Childhood Education Center.

The focus will be on healthy foods and increasing physical activity for children and families, garden-based activities and lessons, and the OSU Food Hero Social Mar-

keting campaign. Stop by the Extension open house Oct. 8 at 6 p.m., featuring samples of the 4-H Iron Chef team's winning smoothie recipe, and the famous smoothie bike.

# Film explores reservation life

The Bend Film Festival will show *Songs My Brother Taught Me* on Friday, Oct. 9, at the Madras Performing Arts Center.

The show starts at 6 p.m., and admission is free.

*Songs My Brothers Taught Me* is a 2015 American drama film written and directed by Chloé Zhao. It is Zhao's debut feature film.

The film is set on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and explores the bond between a brother and his younger sister.

Here is a part of the director's statement:

*Songs My Brothers Taught Me* is a contemplation of the time I spent on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation during the four years of making this film.

One of the most common questions people ask when they hear about some of the difficulties facing Pine Ridge is "Why don't they just leave? If life is hard, why don't they just leave the reservation and go somewhere else?"

When considering how frequently I have moved around



Scene from *Songs My Brother Taught Me*. Courtesy photo.

in my own life, I must confess that at times I have often wondered the same thing.

I was born in Beijing and left home when I was 14, and have been moving from place to place ever since.

As a result, there isn't one particular place in the world from which I cannot just uproot myself and leave behind. 'Home', to me, feels like only a concept, and I find myself often exploring its meaning in my films and writing.

During my time on Pine Ridge, as I became friends with some of the Lakota people living there, I became increasingly intrigued and almost envious of the deep connection they have to their

homes, families, communities and their land.

This bone-deep attachment also has its consequences, and over time I also became aware of the various struggles and isolation they face because of it.

I found this very simple question has an increasingly complicated answer, one that I find difficult to express in words. So in many ways I made *Songs My Brother Taught Me* to explore this question—How do you leave the only place you've ever known?

Set against the backdrop of the Badlands and the Great Plains of South Dakota, *Songs* is also a kind of

poem dedicated to my love for this wild, magnificent, yet marginalized piece of the American west...

We are completely indebted to our cast and friends on Pine Ridge, most of them were acting for the first time, and were born, raised and residing on the reservation.

They trusted us completely, and welcomed us into their homes and their lives. The film would certainly not have been possible without their kindness and support.

This trust touched on every aspect of the shoot. Sadly, during production, the childhood home of one of our leads (13-year-old Jashaun) was burned down in a snow-storm.

After much reflection, and talking with Jashaun and her family, I decided to rewrite the script and reshoot scenes, incorporating this event into her character's story.

We filmed Jashaun seeing the ruins for the first time, and what was at first supposed to be a brief pickup, developed into something more as Jashaun decided to keep going, searching in the ashes as she tried to recover her things that were lost in the fire....



Young dancers at the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs - Mt. Hood Ski Bowl Fifth Annual Tribal Celebration, Saturday, Sept. 26.

## Water: meters project

(Continued from page 1)

The ratio was 39,400 gallons of water per hookup each month on the reservation; compared to the average U.S. household usage of 5,000 gallons per month.

That is not to say the average residence on the reservation uses eight times as much water as the national average. Instead, the number indicates significant leaks in the system, though some residents may be over-using water, especially in the summer.

With no water meters, there is no cost for residential water usage among reservation households. For this reason there is no incentive to conserve water.

The tribes may look at implementing a water rate system, on a scale based on usage. Currently, the Confederated Tribes spend more than \$1 million per year on domestic water. This money comes from the general fund.

There are some paying customers, such as the casino, museum and commercial buildings. But this covers only about 15 percent of overall water cost on the reservation.

The water meter-water rate project would relieve the expense to the general fund, and would take pressure off the water treatment plant, saving money on repairs and extending its years of operation.

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