

Language Learners

Annie Kirk teaches language at the Warm Springs Academy.

Language teachers from Culture and Heritage work with Academy students in the mornings.

The session at right was held just before the school assembly for the Madras High School girls basketball team.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Smelt fishing open on the Sandy

Tribal Council has opened the smelt fishing for the Sandy River, as recommended by the Branch of Natural Resources Fisheries Department.

March is expected to be the best harvest month on the Sandy. The fishery is open to tribal members from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Fishing will continue until the harvest reaches 5,500 or until the run ends.

The smelt fishing season earlier this year on the Cowlitz was a success, said Brad Houslet, BNR

Fisheries Department manager.

At the Cowlitz tribal members harvested about 2,000 pounds of the smelt, or Pacific culachon.

Natural Resources staff gave some of the Cowlitz smelt to tribal elders, Houslet said. Some other provisions in the Sandy smelt resolution:

Gear for the harvest is limited to dipnets. The Branch of Natural Resources is responsible for the biological monitoring of the fishery.

Pursuant to tribal law, tribal member fishers shall upon request allow authorized federal, state or tribal officers to inspect the catch.

A tribal member must carry an enrollment card at all times while fishing or transporting the fish. The member must produce the card upon by state or tribal enforcement officers. Any person who produces the tribal enrollment card is not required to produce a state fishing license.

Tribal members must report catch to Natural Resources on-site at fishery locations. Those not reporting on-site are to report the harvest within 24 hours at the Branch of Natural Resources office in Warm Springs.

This is a subsistence fishery. There is no harvest limit

per individual within the tribal allocation of 5,500 pounds.

Subsistence fishing means the taking of fish by members is for personal use. This includes the sale or exchange with other treaty Indians for their personal use. No sales or trades are allowed with non-Indians.

Commercial fish sales are not allowed. The use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited when fishing under treaty rights.

Penalties for violations are strictly enforced to ensure compliance with all rules and regulations.

BIA working on law enforcement funding

The BIA has been working to find additional funding for law enforcement on the reservation.

BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent John Halliday said he has been meeting with agency Regional Director Stan Speaks, and tribal Public Safety director Stan Suenaga on the matter.

Mr. Halliday updated Tribal Council on progress of this project last week. The BIA has funds set aside specifically for reservation law enforcement, he said.

Part of the additional BIA funding for Warm Springs would go to Corrections, and part to the police.

Law enforcement positions on the reservation have not received a salary increase for 10 years, Mr. Halliday said.

The pay rate for tribal law enforcement is below that of neighboring areas, such as Jefferson and Crook counties.

This leads to the problem of an officer starting his or her career on the reservation, going through training and gaining experience, and then taking a job off the reservation. In the long-term, this ends up costing more, because of higher turnover.

The planned additional BIA funding would not impact the tribal general fund.

New at Counseling

Walk-in groups at the Community Counseling Center are from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This is a new development

for potential clients to start the process for Counseling services.

For any inquiries, please call the Community Counseling Center at 541-553-3205.

The Twenty-Third Annual Native American Education Program Powwow at the Siuslaw School District is this Saturday, March 19. The powwow will be at the Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak Street in Florence. Grand Entries will be at 1 and 6 p.m. Open drum. Potluck to follow powwow. Call 541-997-5458.

Tribes host meeting with state education officials

The Confederated Tribes and the Education Committee hosted a visit last week with officials from the Oregon Department of Education.

The meeting saw a good turnout of parents and other community members. This was a chance for them to share thoughts on how to improve education services to tribal members in Jefferson County.

The information will help the state in implementing the Oregon American Indian Education Plan.

The conversation focused on the education strengths, needs and priorities.

Some of the strengths identified included extended family support system plus cultural knowledge, Native language and history.

The meeting was part of the community discussion on changes to help more students stay in school, get a good education, and pursue their interests after they graduate.

Meanwhile, the Education Committee, Tribal Council and the board of the 509-J school district are working toward a new long-term education agreement.

The Council and committee hope to have this complete by the end of the term of the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council.

If you would like more information on this process, or to comment, contact Deanie Smith, Ardis Smith Clark, or June Smith; or one of your Tribal Council members.

Election

(Continued from page 1)

The BIA election packet includes an analysis of the proposed changes. The analysis of the first proposed amendment (Organization of Tribal Council—Composition) states:

The proposed change would require Tribal Council elections to be conducted as secretarial elections by the BIA; and changes the Council

membership to nine.

Regarding the Organization of Tribal Council—Apportionment, the analysis reads:

“The proposed change would remove districts; Council to be chosen from members at large; and Chiefs would not be members of Council.”

Voters should consult their packets for further explanations.

4202 Holliday St. Call 541-615-0555

WARM SPRINGS TELECOM

WSFPI

(Continued from page 1)

But the payments would then be subject to tax. And this could also require a reduction in the tribal operation budget, possibly costing jobs within the organization.

About 60 tribal members work at the mill. Tribal Council, the mill board and management, and the BIA have been working for some time now on a fix for the mill.

The hope is to keep the jobs in the community, but the situation is complicated. The BIA, for instance, could issue a cease and desist order on the mill operation, if the tribes are not receiving fair market value for the timber.

An alternative would be for the Tribal Council to agree in writing that the

tribes are knowingly providing the timber to WSPFI at a value less than the fair market.

Another alternative would be for the tribes to sell the logs on the open market. This would apparently bring in less revenue than the mill operation, according to an analysis by WSPFI.

Brisland, who works at Warm Springs Ventures, also made an interesting suggestion at the Council meeting last week.

If the mill remains viable at least for the next few years, then there may be the possibility of combining the operation with a hemp production enterprise.

Hemp production has been mentioned as an addition to the tribal cannabis growing operation.

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