

# FFA student excels at variety of skills

In his first year with the Future Farmers of America, Wessley Beymer earned three proficiency awards, the most of any freshman in FFA at Madras High School.

The awards were in the categories of forage production, forestry, and beef production.

Wessley earned the forage proficiency certification for a crested wheatgrass and mixed seed planting project at his grandmother Pinkey Beymer's ranch.

The forestry proficiency certification was for operating a log loader during a Natural Resources hazardous fuels reduction project at HeHe.

And the beef production proficiency is for work that Wessley does with his herd of cattle. He started raising cattle with 4-H, and has sold his steer at the county fair.

The money he earns from these sales are going toward his college fund. As a high school freshman, Wessley has not yet decided on plans for after college. "I might have a ranch," he says, but there is plenty of time to think about it.

Wessley's parents are Waylon and Tiffany Beymer, owners of Chilkat Logging and Excavation.

Wessley's younger brother Shain, in the seventh grade, is also raising livestock on the family's 120-acre Sidwalter ranch. Shain is in the new Discovery FFA program, through the Jefferson County Middle School.

Around spring break this year, Chilkat helped to sponsor an FFA trip to Indian Ag Council at Oregon State. At the high school the FFA program has about 25 to 30 students. And about 10 of the students, including Wessley are from Warm Springs.



Wessley with three Certificates of Proficiency.



Courtesy Tiffany Beymer.

Wessley giving a vaccination to a calf at the family ranch.

## Letter to editor

### Fisheries legacy

Historically, the legendary "Bridge of the Gods" area was the ancestral homeland of the Wasco Tribes. The traditional fishery was enormous and one of the greatest fishing sites on the Columbia River, where millions of salmon migrated annually, including to the Oxbow Springs tributary.

The area is where many Wascopam families caught their

subsistence salmon for the year, but in 1938 the great ancient Wasco fishery was inundated by the backwaters of the Bonneville dam, which was catastrophic.

Entire fishing villages were engulfed by the slack water pools. Only memories remain of the once great fishery and the millions of salmon that migrated and provided the first salmon and the way of life that the Wascopam depended on since time immemorial.

This historic area is too impor-

tant to ignore any longer. The children and future generations must know where they came from. CTWS needs to pay tribute to our own legacy, which provided a way of life and the brightest salmon for countless generations.

It needs to be commemorated annually. A "Bridge of the Gods" powwow could generate revenue to vendors, etc., at Warm Springs or Cascade Locks.

Awe-Na. Respectfully,  
**Anthony Littleleaf**

### Veterans Welcome Home Day Parade



Photos courtesy Susan Guerin

Veterans from around the region arrived in Warm Springs for the Inaugural Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade, hosted by the Eugene Greene Sr. American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 48.



Central Oregon veterans motorcycle group.



### Community notes...

The Diabetes Prevention Program will start a series of **Diabetes Prevention Lifestyle Balance** classes in May. These are for anyone 18 or older who has been diagnosed with pre-diabetes.

Screenings can be done at the Diabetes Prevention Program office at 1142 Warm Springs Street on campus. The deadline to get signed up is May 10. For more information, contact Joy Ramirez at 541-553-5513.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual **Honor Seniors Day** will be held May 13 at Agency Longhouse. If you want to

volunteer to help out in some way, contact the Senior Program at 553-3313.

The Twenty-First Annual **Na-Ha-Shnee Native American Health Science Institute** is a 13-day summer program designed to encourage Native students to pursue health science degrees and health-related careers.

It's open to students currently in ninth, tenth or eleventh grades. Applications are available online: Google WSU Native American Health Sciences to find it. The deadline is coming up on April 25.

### COCC has open house next Tuesday

COCC's Admissions and Records Department will host an Open House on April 19, highlighting certificate and degree programs, college resources and facilities.

The event will be at the Bend campus in the Coats Campus Center from 4 to 7 p.m. Prospective students and their families will be

able to mingle with faculty, admissions staff and academic advisors as well as enter to win COCC tuition scholarships. Visitors will also have an opportunity to tour the Science Center, Health Careers Center, Cascade Culinary Center, Automotive Garage and the Residence Hall. Admission is free.



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