

Academy looks to partner with NASA program

Show case event possible in June

An outreach program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, encourages under-represented youth to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

The program reaches out to students in rural areas, Native American students, and others who are under-represented in the fields.

The Warm Springs k-8 Academy, and other partners met this week with a NASA team that explained benefits

the program has to offer.

The goal, said Juan-Carlos Chavez, is to provide the school with the kind of program that best fits the school's existing curriculum. Chavez is the associate director of the Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium.

Another goal of the program, he said, is to provide resources to meet the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education needs of the particular school.

The program begins in the middle school grades, then follows the students through high school, college, and on to a career.

Meeting with Chavez this week were academy principal Ken Parshall, middle school science teacher Paul Harris, and Warm Springs Ventures business development and marketing manager Aurolyn Stwyer. Representatives from SOAR, the group encouraging unmanned aerial systems development in Oregon, were also on hand; along with Jon Waterhouse, Indigenous People's Scholar with the Institute for Environmental Health.

Mr. Chavez gave an overview of the resources that the Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium has to offer. They have materials and experts that can help the school generate more interest among the students in STEM education.

The best way to get the program off the ground, he said, is for the group to host a show case event for the middle school grades at the

academy.

The show case gives the students a chance to have hands-on experience in the field of rocketry. This can begin with an archery station, then a station where the students can build their own rockets. And the event involves the experts launching a demonstration rocket for the students.

The event has proven popular, and successful in generating student interest in these fields of science. Principal Parshall and the NASA team agreed that a tentative target date for a show case event at the middle school would be June 9, at the end of the school year.

There may be other benefits to the partnership. The NASA program could help with the grant process for projects involving the tribes' UAS program, said Aurolyn Stwyer.

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.

The American Red Cross will have a **blood drive** at the United Methodist Church in Madras on Wednesday, May 18 from noon to 5. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS or online at: redcrossblood.org

Performing Arts Center to host film, poet in May

the Madras Performing Arts Center on May 6 will feature the film *A Place to Stand*, followed by an appearance and question-and-answer period with Jimmy Santiago Baca.

A Place to Stand is the authorized story of Jimmy Santiago Baca's transformation from an illiterate convict to an award-winning poet and novelist.

The film follows Baca's path through abandonment, drug-dealing, and a DEA bust gone awry, ultimately leading

to a 5-year narcotics sentence at Arizona State Prison, one of the most violent prisons in the country. Baca survived prison by exploring deep within himself, discovering poetry at his soul's core.

Jimmy's best-selling memoir has been called "elegant and gripping" (Los Angeles Times), and "an astonishing narrative that affirms the triumph of the human spirit" (Arizona Daily Star).

The Friday, May 6 showing begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Zoo's first condor chick making it big in Calif.

Kun-Wak-Shun made first nest found in Pinnacles National Park this year

She Oregon Zoo Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation joined the effort to save California condors in 2003.

Since that time, the center has raised and prepped for release more than 40 wild-bound condors.

The center's first chick, hatched in 2004, was named Kun-Wak-Shun. This is Wasco for Thunder and Lightning.

In 2004, the zoo had asked Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum to name the bird.

The request was in recognition of the cultural significance that the condor, or Thunderbird, holds in traditional Wasco culture.

At a ceremony at the zoo, atwai Chief Wallulatum gave the bird the name Kun-Wak-Shun.

This year—12 years after hatching—Kun-Wak-Shun is the host of the first condor nest spotted in Central California this spring.

During the last week of February, Kun-Wak-Shun, also known as No. 340, went momentarily missing.

"He fell off our radar, which is how we know when a condor has gone into a cave to nest," said wildlife biologist Alacia Welch, who leads the Condor Recovery Program Crew in California's Pinnacles National Park.

Some condors released in Pinnacles are outfitted with solar-powered GPS wing tags that allow the crew to track their whereabouts, and Kun-Wak-Shun is one of them.

Since noticing his signal drop and tracking down his nest in the park's majestic



Photo courtesy of the U.S. National Park Service.

Kun-Wak-Shun, hatched in 2004, displays enormous wingspan in this 'camera trap' photo taken at California's Pinnacles National Park in 2014. The bird has been treated for lead-poisoning 12 times since his 2005 wild release. He and his mate, condor No. 236 (seen in background at right), were among the first wild condor pairs to nest this spring, and could soon be raising a chick.

Lewis and Clark saw the large birds as they traveled along the Columbia River, and condors were a common motif for the designs of Oregon's Wasco people...

rock formations, the crew has now confirmed two other eggs nestled in caves and crevices in Central California. Biologists with Ventana Wildlife Society found another five nests along the Big Sur coast.

Though he is a prolific father and considered Pinnacles' most dominant male, Kun-Wak-Shun has led a taxing life since leaving the Jonsson Center about a decade ago.

As with nearly every free-flying condor, he's been treated for lead poisoning multiple times—12 to be exact. He also lost his first mate, No. 444, to the starvation-inducing effects of lead.

But Kun-Wak-Shun has grit. Following his treatments,

scavengers, condors can ingest the toxin when they eat the remains of an animal that's been shot with lead ammunition.

"Anyone who shoots an animal with lead ammunition can accidentally poison scavenging animals," said Leland Brown, non-lead hunting education coordinator at the Oregon Zoo. "Shown the unintended consequences of using lead, many have started to switch to non-lead ammunition."

As with all species' captive breeding and release efforts, the goal is for California condors to become a self-sustaining population that someday re-inhabits its full historical range—a range that included Oregon.

Lewis and Clark saw the large birds as they traveled along the Columbia River, and condors were a common motif for the designs of Oregon's Wasco people, who lived along the Columbia between The Dalles and Cascade Locks.

"We would like to see California condors return to the full extent of their historical range," said Dr. David Shepherdson, Oregon Zoo deputy conservation director. "But until the problem of lead poisoning is resolved, condors will never fully recover in the wild."

Welch says she expects to see No. 340 and No. 236's new chick pop from the egg later this week or this weekend.

The Oregon Zoo's condor recovery efforts take place at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, located in rural Clackamas County on Metro-owned open land. The remoteness of the facility minimizes the exposure of young condors to people, increasing the chances for captive-hatched birds to survive and breed in the wild.

Counseling begins Survivors of Suicide Talking Circle

Warm Springs Community Counseling is beginning a Survivors of Suicide Talking Circle.

The first meeting will be on Monday, May 2, and every Monday thereafter (except on May 30) through June 27.

The meetings will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Counseling Center.

If you have lost someone to suicide, or may have attempted, you are not alone. The Counseling Center invites you to attend the SOS - Survivors of Suicide support group. For more information contact Annie Kalama or Kelly Anthony at the center, 541-553-3205.

Report details crisis of suicide in Indian Country

Indian Country has seen a dramatic increase in suicide rates in the last 15 years, according to data released last week.

The suicide rate among American Indians and Alaska Natives has always been abnormally high. But a study from the National Center for Health Statistics shows how acute the crisis has become since 1999.

According to the report, the suicide rate among American Indian and Alaska Native women that year was 4.6 per 100,000 people. In 2014, it jumped to 8.7 per 100,000 people.

That represented an 89 percent increase, the largest increase among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

American Indian and Alaska Native men remain afflicted at even higher rates, the report said. In 2014, their suicide rate was 27.4 per 100,000, up from 19.8 in 1999.

That represented a rate increase of 38 percent in those years.

Despite the alarming rates, the center warns

that the problem may be even worse than the data indicates.

"Deaths for the American Indian or Alaska Native population may be underreported by 30 percent," the report stated. That would be the highest underreported rate among all racial and ethnic groups.

Overall, the suicide rate in the nation was 13.0 per 100,000 people in 2014. That's an increase of 24 percent from the rate of 10.5 per 100,000 in 1999.

Tribes across the nation have declared emergencies in response to suicides, particularly among youth. The Yurok Tribe in northern California saw seven young people in one community take their lives during a recent 18-month period.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota made headlines last year after disclosing that at least 20 young people committed suicide in the span of 11 months.

More than 250 attempts were reported during that same time.

Jobs at Indian Head Casino

Indian Head Casino human resources has advertised the following positions:

Guest services operator: full time and part-time positions available - Contact Naomi

Shy 541-460-7777 Ext. 7734.

Players Club host - full time - Contact Naomi.

Server - part-time - Contact Esten Culpus 541-460-7777 Ext. 7710.

Tule Grill attendant - part-time - Contact Jordan Caldera, Heather Cody 541-460-7777 Ext. 7725.

Host / Cashier - Two part-time positions - Contact Esten.

Tule Grill cook - part time - Kip Culpus or Heather Cody at 541-460-7777 Ext. 7725.

Cage cashier - full time - Wyval Rosamilia 541-460-7777 Ext. 7737

Security officer - full time - Tim Kerr 541-460-7777 Ext. 7749

Table games dealer - full time - Jami Deming 541-460-7777 Ext. 7724