

Year in Review ~ 2016

June

The Portland-based company Aerial Inspection Resources conducted a series of successful flights this month at the Warm Springs **unmanned aerial systems test range**.

The testing included UAS flights by the de-energized power line on the reservation. A company from China was also scheduled for test flights on the reservation.

The Confederated Tribes commemorated the One-Hundred and Sixty-First Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1855 in June.

This is the **Forty-Sixth Annual Pi-Ume-Sha**, the celebration having started in 1970.

The theme of the powwow this year was: *Food Gathering—Usual and Accustomed*.



Masks at the *Kindred Spirits* exhibit, Museum at Warm Springs.

month at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort.

The training center will be located on the lower floor of the resort, where the gaming offices were located when the casino was at Kah-Nee-Ta. The space had in recent years been used for storage.

When the training center is open in 2017, Kah-Nee-Ta will be a key partner in the Warm Springs UAS Center for Excellence for Wildland Fire Management. Elsewhere:

The tribal **horse removal** program is in its fifth year. During that time, the program has removed thousands of excess and unwanted horses from the reservation.

Without the horse removal program, the number of excess horses on the reservation would be 23,388 by 2020, according to the Range and Ag estimate. Meanwhile:

Eight young people from Warm Springs are working with **Heart of Oregon YouthBuild**.

They are building houses in Madras. Heart of Oregon has developed a great working relationship with the tribes. In time they are hoping to build new homes on the reservation. Meanwhile they are planning a clean-up project in Warm Springs in early September.

July

Truman Merrifield made an historical achievement this month at Central Oregon Community College.

On July 1 he became the **COCC Student Body President**. Truman is the first person of color to serve in this position.

At COCC he is studying Forest Resources Technology and Wildland Fire/Fuels Management. Truman is also the first person from this discipline to serve as COCC Student Body President.

The Confederated Tribes and Ventures hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for the Warm Springs **Unmanned Aerial Systems training center** is set for this

August

The 2016-17 school year in the 509-J district will see the start of the **Bridges Career and Technical High School**. Bridges will have two sites: one in Warm Springs and one in Madras.

The Warm Springs component of the Bridges High School will take the place of the Roots alternative education program. In other school news:

The Confederated Tribes and School District 509-J continue to work toward a new multi-year **education agreement**. The current agreement expires this summer. And this in July:

September

The Tribal Council appointed the **Cannabis Commission** of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The commission is the policy-making and oversight body for the tribes' cannabis production program.

The Tribal Council approved the formation of a new **non-profit corporation**.

October

(Continues below)

This will greatly facilitate a successful grant program, as the tribes have a large backlog of projects that are in need of funding. A new community center is just one example. Meanwhile:

Tribal Council took up the issue of new **tribal member enrollment**, meeting with Lucille Suppach of Vital Statistics and legal counsel.

Part of this was to continue discussion of a resolution of the previous Tribal Council, regarding a possible referendum asking whether to change the enrollment baseline year. And this:

The Culture and Heritage Department launched a project to create a **new dictionary of the Ichishkeen language** of the Confederated Tribes.

The event was the result of four years of planning and funding effort, said Tribal Councilwoman Val Switzler, director of the Culture and Heritage Department. The grant for the work comes from the National Science Foundation, among the most

prestigious of funding organizations.

Culture and Heritage and the tribes are partnering with the University of Oregon on the project

The Health and Human Services Branch in August provided Tribal Council with a plan on how to improve **Children's Protective Services**.

The plan includes both near and long-term changes at CPS. The changes are needed to provide the children, families and community with the best service possible, said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services. Also in August:

Great news for pet owners: The tribes this month began a partnership with the Bend Spay and Neuter Project. The project will host clinics in Warm Springs once a month, offering free spay and neuter services for dog owners.

The Mutton Mountains geologic formation is old and interesting; and one with the promise of providing a geothermal energy source for the Confederated Tribes.

A team of geologists and a drilling crew have been studying the Mutton Mountains area for the past few weeks. The geologists say a geothermal energy project appears to be possible. Energy could be used by Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, or sold to the power grid. Meanwhile:

The Confederated Tribes joined their partners in dedicating the 279-acre **Red Hills Conservation Area**. The tribes acquired the property, located in the valley, through the BPA habitat restoration program.

The process was complicated, involving the tribes and BPA, state Fish & Wildlife, the former land owners and other partners. There was even some opposition, which the tribes were able to overcome.

Best Music Video Rez Life



Spilyay photo

Scott Kalama had an incredible September. First, he made the trip to North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Sioux.

He drove 18 hours to North Dakota, joined by Miss Warm Springs Keeyana Yellowman and CharlieAnn Herkshan. This was an adventure, he says, seeing the many tribal nations together in force.

By chance while there, Scott met some of the people from the Native American Music Awards—not knowing at the time that he would be seeing them again soon.

Scott was back in Warm Springs no more than a few days when he heard he was in the running for a NAMA award in the Best Music Video category. This was for his work on *Rez Life*,

featuring Scott as Blue Flamez, and the Beats Lyrics Leaders.

Rez Life, seen on Youtube, features his song by that title, and video mostly on the Warm Springs Reservation. The month ended with his acceptance of the award, making Scott Warm Springs' first NAMA winner.

Parents:

Did You Know that 62% of Jefferson County Youth indicate that hard liquor is easy to obtain?

- Of students who report using alcohol, 42% report drinking hard liquor.
- 75% of youth respondents say that they get alcohol at home.

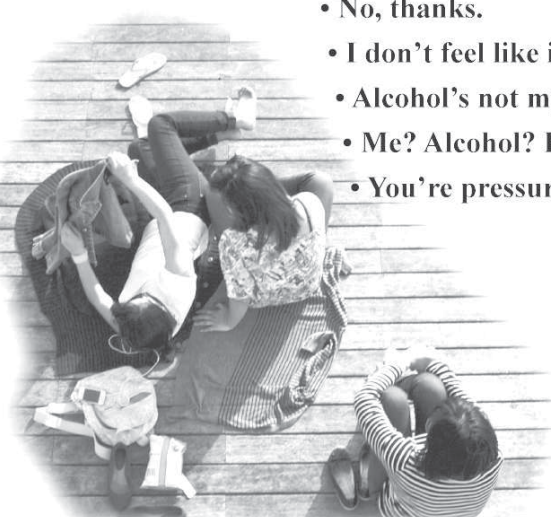
Ways to Safeguard Alcohol From Youth:

- Put all alcohol in a secure place that is out of youth's reach.
- Monitor the levels in liquor bottles and watch for alcohol that has been watered down.
- Don't store extra alcohol in places like the basement or garage – it's easy for bottles or cans to disappear.
- If you drink, model healthy alcohol use to your children.
- Don't allow teen drinking. Don't host parties or allow your children to go to parties where alcohol is served to those under 21. Make your rules and expectations clear to your children and enforce those rules.
- Exercise your influence. Data shows that teens continue to care what their parents think, even while they are in high school and college. Let your teen know that you don't want them to drink and that most teens in fact don't drink.

Talk to Youth About How to Say No to Alcohol:

It's okay to role play ways to say no, and to talk about avoiding places where people may pressure youth to drink:

- No, thanks.
- I don't feel like it. Do you have any soda?
- Alcohol's not my thing.
- Me? Alcohol? Forget it.
- You're pressuring me. I said no.



Jefferson County

PREVENTION TASK FORCE

125 SW C Street, Madras
541.475.4884

<https://www.facebook.com/Jefferson-County-Prevention-Task-Force>

November

The Warm Springs Managed Care program is remodeling a building on the campus to serve as a physical therapy center. The building—by the courthouse on Warm Springs Street—should be ready for business by the end of this month.

The physical therapy center will be a great addition to Managed Care, as tribal members will no longer have to drive to Madras for therapy sessions. The director of Warm Springs physical therapy is Natalie Kiefer, a Choctaw tribal member, and doctor of physical therapy. Meanwhile:

Tribal Council appointed **three judges** to the Court of the Confederated Tribes.

Judge Lisa Lomas was named the new Chief Judge. For the two associate judgeships, the Tribal Council appointed Wilma Smith and Elizabeth Woody.

Tribal Council endorsed a proposal by the Warm Springs Telecom to become the **designated Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier, or ILEC**, for the entire reservation.

Tribal planner Lonny Macy and Adam Haas of Convey Communications, who helped establish the

Warm Springs Telecom, gave the presentation at Tribal Council.

November marked the end of an era for the tribes, as the property of **Warm Springs Forest Products Industries** was put to auction.

The two-day auction will include hundreds of items. These include heavy equipment such as log loaders, timber saws, chippers, tools, buildings—all the equipment associated with the operation of a lumber mill. Elsewhere:

The Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes hired Michele Stacona as **the new Secretary-Treasurer**.