

KWSO launches new podcast

A podcast is a digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series, new installments of which can be received by subscribers automatically.

KWSO's Brutis Baez is always seeking answers to questions so he started *The Indigenous Avenue* podcast featuring interviews with people, talking about themselves and what they do. The podcasts are available on KWSO's SoundCloud account.

The first playlist, *Indigenous Avenue 1.0*, includes:



Courtesy KWSO

- Austin Smith Jr. talking about the Marines, school and hunting.
- Scott Kalama talking about Native Hip Hop, life and staying positive.
- Gordon Scott talking about cars, automotive training, and plans for his mobile mechanic business.
- Truman Merrifield talking about college, Forestry and wildland fire fighting.
- Valiant Clark talking about Legends Casino, drumming and video.

The logo for the *Indigenous Avenue* Podcast.

Free spay, neuter clinic on Sunday

The free spay and neuter program for dogs returns to Warm Springs. Clinics are planned the first Sundays of the coming months.

The next clinic is this Sunday, February 5, at the Warm Springs Community Building, 2775 Quail Trail in the Greeley Heights neighborhood.

Pet owners are asked to arrive at the building with the dog at 7:30 a.m. (Do not feed breakfast, water is okay.)

The service includes free rabies vaccines, if needed. A local shelter

worker will be on hand if there are dogs that need to be surrendered for adoption.

A dog that has been spayed or neutered is a healthier dog. This helps with the dog over-population problem. No more unwanted puppies and messy heat cycles. And have a better behaved dog.

This is project through the Bend Spay and Neuter Project. Learn more at bendsnip.org

Or at: info@bendsnip.org

Head Start: Rating jump from 3 to 5

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Early Childhood Education program have made a great effort to assure that the students and families of the Head Start and Day Care programs are receiving the utmost in care and educational development.

Warm Springs Head Start program has maintained its status in the Oregon Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for several years, with a minimal rating of 3. Over the past year the rating has jumped to 5.

QRIS is a method to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care, education and after-school settings.

Oregon's QRIS personnel qualifications standards are based on the Oregon

Registry. The Head Start employees worked very diligently to retrieve and compile documentation and proof that all staff training and education was met, submitted and registered with the Oregon Registry.

This was a major accomplishment that has been recognized not only through QRIS, but by the noted individual staff levels recorded for the state licensure and compliance.

In November of last year the Office of Head Start implemented new program standards, replacing the 1998 standards, reducing bureaucratic burdens by cutting the 1,400 previous standards by 30 percent.

The new standards build on the strengths of local communities by fostering local partnerships and giv-

ing programs flexibility to meet the specific needs of local children and families. At the same time these standards set a high bar for safety and quality for all Head Start children.

They also align Head Start requirements with new federal child care requirements, such as background checks and health and safety trainings.

There is a new state application for the background checks that now have a fingerprint requirement for all staff who work in Head Start or Day Care programs.

The background check through the Oregon Registry can still be obtained online; however, the rate increased from \$3 to \$35. To complete the required fingerprint process you must pay an additional \$60 to

\$100, depending on where you go.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has been identified as the location set up by the state for the local area. Their cost is currently \$65.

The Head Start program is a family oriented program. "We encourage parent and family engagement with the children during the time they are involved in our program," Cheryl Tom said.

"Feel free to volunteer in your child's room, join them for breakfast, lunch or a snack. Share your cultural knowledge, teach your Native language, sing songs, count, tell stories—there is no limit to what families and community members can teach to our own children."

Snowpack: challenge was clearing outlying driveways

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As it turns out, many tribal elders live in outlying areas of the reservation, as opposed to, for instance, the Warm Springs community, said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services. This made clearing their driveways a challenge.

Most of all the early part of January saw a cooperative effort by the community. Forestry and the Senior Program made sure elders had firewood. Health and Human Services provided food and water at the warming center, set up at the Agency Longhouse. Police and the

EMTs made safety checks. Overall it was a group effort involving many people throughout the tribes.

There have been some vehicles that were stuck in snow, but no serious injuries. One of the Utilities garbage trucks got stuck in the snow for a week, putting more of a burden on the remaining trucks.

"We had some tired employees," said Don Courtney, Utilities manager. This was especially true because of staffing cuts at Utilities over the years, he said. Utilities, like police and fire safety, is an essential service, so there were no days off, even when

the organization was closed in mid January.

The secretary-treasurer, chief operations officer, and tribal emergency manager coordinated the tribal response to the winter conditions.

Emergency manager Dan Martinez would start his day at 3:30 a.m., contacting public safety and BIA Roads. By early morning the recommendation would be made to the S-T on whether the organization should open or not, at which point he

would then contact KWSO for the public announcement.

The tribes have an emergency response plan, in place since 2015. The plan did not come directly into play as there was no declaration of emergency. Tribal Council makes this determination. The situation never reached an emergency level.

Instead, people for the most part stayed off the roads and for the most part they drove safely.

Ice skating trip with Recreation

Warm Springs Recreation is planning a field trip for kids: The trip will include ice skating at the Pavillion in the Old Mill District in Bend.

Kids six and older can get signed up for the trip, scheduled for Monday, February 13.

The bus will leave the community center at 10:30

and return between 4:30 and 5.

Parents or guardians need to fill out consent forms at the community center office. Entry fees of \$5 will be due at signup.

Kids also need to bring sack lunches and extra spending money, if you choose.

Community notes...

Recreation's annual **Sweetheart Sale** is on Friday, February 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Community Center social hall.

Vendors should contact Carol at the Community Center to reserve a table, 541-553-3243.

Tune in to KWSO 91.9 FM on Tuesday, February 7 for Madras **White Buffalos basketball**. The varsity boys will host Molalla. Listen live beginning just before the 7 p.m. tipoff.

Then tune in for the varsity girls game on Friday evening, February 10, starting just before the 7 p.m. tipoff.

The Central Oregon **Farm Fair & Trade Show** is this Wednesday and Thursday, February 1 and 2 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

The fair is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. It is

free and open to the public. Lunch and refreshments will be provided both days.

It is an opportunity to hear about issues affecting farmers, ranchers and the agriculture industry in central Oregon, and a chance to see vendors with new equipment, products and services.

The **Pathways Home** seven-week home-ownership course will begin on March 7.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 at the Credit enterprise building.

To sign up for the course, call 541-553-3148. This course is required for everyone in the IDA Program for home ownership, but is open to anyone who wants to learn how to become a successful homeowner.

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