

Spilyay Tymoo

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July - Pat'ak-Pt'akni - Summer - Shatm

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The Natural Resources Branch hired five youth to work on projects through the summer.

Seven more young people, part of the Native Aspirations program, are also working with Natural Resources this summer, supervised by Javin Dimmick and Lana Leonard. Buffy Hurtado is the coordinator of the Native Aspirations, a program of the Health and Human Services Branch.

One recent project for the Natural Resources team was a trip to Willamette Falls for eeling. The group collected more than 1,400 eels. These will be shared with elders and others in the community. Carl Tewee, Kathryce Danzuka and Josh Olney (from left on the rocks) were part of the team, pictured here with a tribal Fisheries worker collecting eels in a pool at the falls.



Courtesy KWSO/Carina Miller

509-J board hopes to keep MHS JROTC

The Jefferson County School District 509-J board and school officials hope to continue the Madras High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

The board and new superintendent Ken Parshall heard testimony from the public on the JROTC program on Monday evening of this week.

The meeting room was at capacity for this topic in particular. Many in attendance were military veterans. All those who spoke were very much in favor of finding a way to continue the high school JROTC program next year.

Board members themselves are in favor of the program as well. School district board member Laurie Danzuka, for instance, has a son in the JROTC program.

(Please see **JROTC** on 10)

Funding proposal for CP Enterprise

General Council to discuss plan

Tribal Council took a step last week toward financing the Cannabis Project, or CP Enterprise. The next important step will be the General Council meeting set for Monday evening, July 24.

In a narrow vote last week, Tribal Council approved the formation of Warm Springs Financial Strategies, a limited liability corporation wholly owned by the tribes.

The sole purpose of Financial Strategies LLC is to provide financing for membership-approved capital improvements and economic development, such as CP Enterprise. As will be discussed at the General Council, funding would be in the amount of \$3 million.

The money comes through

Warm Springs Ventures and GeoVisions, as generated by the carbon sequestration project. Carbon sequestration will net the tribes more than \$10 million over a term of years, according to Ventures' estimate.

For CP Enterprise the self-funding option eliminates the need to give an outside entity an ownership or revenue share in the project. In time, as the enterprise generates its own revenue, the \$3 million would be paid back to the tribes.

The referendum in late 2015 asked whether the Confederated Tribes should "allow, regulate and operate an on-reservation, tribally owned cannabis cultivation and extraction facility..." The vote was 1,252 in favor to 198 against; or about 86 percent in favor.

Carrying out the mandate has

proven to be a challenge. At first the tribes focused on necessary work with the state legislature and regulatory commission, the U.S. Attorney's Office and BIA. Ventures and Tribal Council then established the tribal Cannabis Commission, and on-reservation regulatory documents.

For the past year the obstacle has been financing. A partnership option is not in the tribes' best interest: This would send up to half of the revenue off the reservation, said Don Sampson, Ventures chief executive officer.

The language of the referendum would also seem to preclude an outside entity owning a part of CP Enterprise. The way to carry out the referendum, then, is for the tribes to finance the project.

In funding the CP Enterprise, the carbon sequestration revenue

would be invested in economic development and new revenue, Mr. Sampson said. The process involves a supplemental budget, subject of the July 24 General Council meeting.

The process also required the formation of Warm Springs Financial Strategies LLC. By resolution (see page 7) Tribal Council approved the Financial Strategies articles of organization, and operating agreement.

At first the Council vote was two in favor, two against, and two abstain. Tribal Council Vice Chairman Jody Calica then broke the tie in favor of the resolution. His vote was to carry out the mandate of the 2015 referendum, and respect the vote of the membership, Mr. Calica said.

(See **CP ENTERPRISE** on 5)

Native Sol adds to solar eclipse

Native Aspirations and Health and Human Services have been working on plans for a three-day event for the August 21 solar eclipse.

The Native Sol Solar Eclipse Fest would be August 19-21 at the grassy area behind the Family Resource Center, in front of the Behavioral Health Center.

There will be live music performances, with DJ K9 playing music during intermissions. Food and merchandise vendors are already signing up with Native Aspirations.

There will be family activities throughout the three days. For information you can reach the program at 541-615-0144; or stop by the Family Resource Center. Here is the agenda so far for the Native Sol Solar Eclipse Fest:

Saturday, August 19: Vendors open in the morning. Tribal exhibition dancers, family games and prizes in the afternoon; and live music by Blue Flamez in the late afternoon.

The agenda for Saturday is similar with live music by Kelly Jackson in the late afternoon. Then on Monday morning, August 21, there will be the eclipse followed by a powwow.

Some further details, as provided by Reina Estimo at Native Aspirations: Vendors need to register and pay a \$30 vendor fee. Vendors can register in person at the Family Resource Center, or email: Reina.estimo@wstribes.org

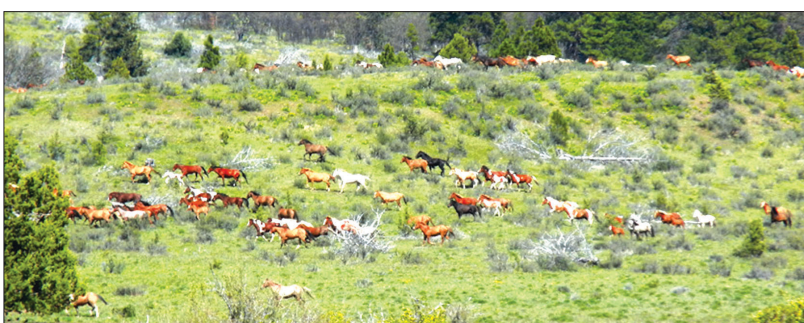
No camping will be allowed. No campfires or fireworks. This is a drug- and alcohol-free event.

Range benefits from horse removal

The deer and elk populations on the reservation have improved in recent years, as the range habitat, especially winter range, has improved. This is a direct result of the Natural Resources Range and Ag horse removal program.

Range and Ag began horse removal in 2001, when there were almost 7,000 horses on the reservation. There are now about 3,500, approaching a manageable number, said Jason Smith, Range and Ag director.

Mr. Smith and Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe reported last week to Tribal Council on horse removal. This will be the last year of the official program, though there will be an ongoing effort to keep the horse population under control,



Courtesy Range & Ag

This photo is from a few years ago: The problem of large roaming herds of range horses has diminished through the removal program.

Smith said.

Range and Ag will work with the reservation grazing groups to maintain control of the horse numbers, he said.

Since 2011, Range and Ag has removed an average of more than 1,000 horses per year, for a total of about 7,300 removals. This not

only brought the herd numbers down, but also prevented an escalation in the horse population.

Wild herds can increase in population from 10 to 25 percent, depending on conditions. Without the horse removal program, 2017 would have seen a reservation horse population of 15,000, in-

creasing to more than 21,000 by 2020, according to projections. This would have consumed and otherwise destroyed winter-range habitat for deer and elk.

"Since the horse removal program began the Wildlife Department has seen the vegetation improve in areas where there has been substantial horse removal, especially in the Mutton Mountains," said Andrea Karoglanian, tribal wildlife biologist.

"The horse removal program is very beneficial to the deer and elk populations, and is one essential part needed to improve wildlife populations on the reservation."

(See **HORSES** on 5)

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