

## Government-to-Government summit



Photos courtesy Heather Hatton/Chinook Winds Casino Resort

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. addresses the tribal-state annual gathering.

Leaders from the nine tribes of Oregon met with state officials last week at the Eighteenth Annual tribal-state government to government summit. The Siletz tribes and Chinook Winds Casino hosted the summit November 1-2 at Lincoln City. The goal of the annual meeting is to promote and strengthen inter-government relations, resolve potential concerns, and enhance the exchange of information, ideas and resources for the greater good of tribes and all Oregonians. In appreciation of her work with tribes, Gov. Kate Brown (left) was gifted a Pendleton blanket.



## Governor wants to cancel Nestlé water transfer

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has requested that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife withdraw its application for a water rights transfer with the city of Cascade Locks.

The transfer is a key part of Nestlé's plans to build a \$50 million water bottling plant in Cascade Locks.

Last year, Hood River County passed a ballot measure banning all commercial water bottling. It was an attempt to block Nestlé from moving forward.

But the city of Cascade Locks hasn't given up on the idea. City leaders say they still want the economic boost the bottling plant would bring.

So, they've continued to pursue a water rights transfer with the state to help Nestlé gain access to valuable spring water.

The transfer would allow the city to access up to 225 gallons per minute from Oxbow Springs to sell to Nestlé and replace that water from its municipal source.

Now, the governor wants Oregon to back out of the deal. In a letter to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher sent last week, Brown said the ballot measure prohibiting commercial water bottling makes the

ultimate goal of the water exchange uncertain. She noted that the state has already spent "significant resources, including legal costs" on the exchange application and expects to spend more money and staff resources on "expected challenges and court appeals."

"I find it irresponsible to incur additional significant state costs for an uncertain outcome," she wrote. "I am asking that you withdraw the ODFW exchange application."

The governor also wrote that she is directing state resources toward economic development in Cascade Locks.

documentation, the Native American Program, Legal Aid Services of Oregon (phone: 503-223-9483) offers free assistance to low-income residents of Oregon.

**Notice to all IIM Account owners:** If you name is on the Office of Special Trustee (OST) Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) list of IIM accounts that contain Cobell Settlement deposits, you must contact OST to claim your Cobell Settlement funds before November 27, 2017. Cobell Settlement deposits that remain in WAU IIM accounts after this deadline may be involuntarily transferred to the Cobell Settlement Scholarship fund. The toll free number for OST's Trust Beneficiary call center is 1-888-678-6836.

### U.S. District Court Sets November 27, 2017 Cobell Settlement Deadline.

The Indian Trust Settlement reports that there are over 30,000 Cobell settlement Class Members designated as Whereabouts Unknown or for which Garden City Group, the Claims Administrator, is still looking for current contact information. The deadline for these Class Members or their heirs to provide documentation supporting distribution of the settlement funds is November 27, 2017.

The Whereabouts Unknown list is available at [www.indiantrust.com](http://www.indiantrust.com), by clicking on the map in the top right-hand corner.

If your name is on the Whereabouts Unknown list: Call the Claims Administrator,

at 1-800-961-6109, as soon as possible, to claim your Cobell settlement funds by updating your contact information. You may also provide information through the [www.indiantrust.com](http://www.indiantrust.com) website. Most Class Members receive at least \$1,500.

If you are the heir of a Class Member with an estate on the Whereabouts Unknown list: Call the Claims Administrator, at 1-800-961-6109, as soon as possible. You will need to provide documentation, such as a small estate affidavit or a probate order, which directs distribution of the estate's settlement funds. NOTE: The deadline for Class Member estates with federal probate proceedings pending as of November 27, 2017 may be extended until the proceedings are finalized.

If you need help getting this

## ECE open again

The Early Childhood Education Center was closed last week, due to a health matter related to standing water below one of the pods.

The building itself and the drinking water were tested by the tribal Sanitarian, and both the building and drinking water showed no contamination, according to the tribal management report.

During the closure, as a safety measure, the facility was disinfected. This included the walls, floors, toys and furniture.

The G-pod, the kitchen and south playground will remain closed so work can continue in these areas.

The tribe has entered into a food vendor contract to provide a daily hot meal to the students. All meals, including breakfast, lunch and a snack, will continue to meet the federal guidelines as required by Head Start.

Tribal Day Care management will be adjusting fees for childcare for all families impacted.

## Housing: Report at Council

(Continued from page 1)

The most important early element in developing new tribal housing is involvement of the community in the planning process. The active involvement of the community gives the people the vested interest leading to successful new housing, Ms. Ahern said.

For her thesis she visited and studied three housing projects across Indian Country: The Place of Hidden Waters on the Puyallup Reservation in Tacoma; the Sale River Heights project on the Makah Indian Reservation; and the Thunder Valley project on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

Aspects of the projects can serve as examples for Warm Springs, she said. The Hidden Waters development happened through a Housing Authority, similar to that of Warm Springs. So the financing component could be an example.

Tacoma is an urban area, though; so in terms of physical setting, the Thunder Valley project would be an example.

A lesson from all three projects is the engagement of the community during planning and actual construction. Engagement and empowerment of young people in the process is especially important, as in time they will be the ones living there.

Another important point: The design and construction should be culturally responsive to the community. To achieve this, engagement of the residents, instead of just informing them of decisions, is a key to success, Ms. Ahern said.

Through her thesis, she developed five guiding principles. "The objective for the guiding



Marissa Ahern

principles is to positively influence future planning efforts on the Warm Springs Reservation, specifically in regards to future housing projects."

As a tribal member, she felt a personal responsibility to make the thesis as genuine and realistic as possible, so it can benefit the tribe in future planning of housing projects. In short the guiding principles are:

Facilitate a big picture vision. Respect the culture of the tribe. Community involvement. Understanding policy and resources. Finding Balance.

The timeline for successful planning can be a matter of years, in order to find a plan that everyone agrees would be best. For her part in the future, Ms. Ahern wants to continue working with the Confederated Tribes on housing development, starting with community engagement.

Her report was well received at Tribal Council and by the BIA, who have been working with the Corps of Engineers on a long-standing issue of Columbia River Indian housing.

## Resolution of Tribal Council

### Indigenous Peoples Day

**Whereas** Tribal Council recognizes Indigenous people have occupied these lands since time immemorial;

**Whereas** Tribal Council recognizes Columbus did not "discover" America;

**Whereas** Tribal Council recognizes the negative educational and cultural impacts this federally recognized holiday has imposed on Indigenous people;

**Whereas** Tribal Council recognizes efforts by Native nations who presented the idea of "Indigenous Peoples Day" to the United Nations in 1977;

**Whereas** Tribal Council al-

ready recognizes 10 separate holidays in their observance under subsection (l) of PER-502 of the personnel policy and wishes to add "Indigenous Peoples Day" as a new stand-alone section (2) under PER-502 to fall on the second day of each October, effective immediately and thereafter, and does not wish to compensate employees for any time away from work as a result of this observance; now therefore,

**Be it resolved** by the Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, pursuant to Article V Section 1 (f), (l) and (u) of the Tribal Constitution and Bylaws, Tribal Council now proclaims every second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day. Resolution 12,379.

The Jefferson County school district is holding a **Substitute Recruitment Fair** on Thursday, November 16 from 9 to noon at the Madras Performing Arts Center. There is a need for substitute teachers, instructional

assistants, bus drivers, custodians, secretaries and food service workers. Folks looking for part-time work can find out the qualifications for each position and complete the necessary paperwork at the Fair.