

Fish platform decision draws opposition

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—and other treaty tribes of the region—oppose a state decision regarding a fishing platform at Willamette Falls.

The Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of Umatilla join Warm Springs in opposing the state approval of the Grand Ronde fishing platform at the falls.

The Grand Ronde have no treaty fishing rights. Yet, “Every time they gain back some sort of recognition—like getting permis-

sion from the state for this platform—it creates a reality that they have certain rights,” said Louie Pitt, Warm Springs’ director of Governmental Affairs.

Earlier this fall Oregon Department of State Lands director Vicki Walker approved the Grand Ronde plan to build the scaffold, made of metal and concrete.

The state gave the approval without consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. In a letter to the state, Warm

Springs tribal attorney John Ogan wrote:

“The Warm Springs Tribes are extremely disappointed by the conduct of the state for their inexplicable departure from government-to-government consultation procedures.”

After the treaty tribes voiced their opposition, the state reconsidered the decision; and then in late November re-affirmed the approval.

A native perspective on climate change

Jeremy FiveCrows, a spokesman for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, remembers fishermen pulling sockeye from the Columbia River—fish that were infested with a strange white fungus.

As he walked the banks of the river in 2015 near Celilo, the banks were choked with dead sockeye. “We would see whole schools congregating in cold-water refuge areas,” Mr. FiveCrows said. “But they were trapped there.”

It’s not just the fish, either. First foods—vital resources the tribes of the Pacific Northwest have relied upon for centuries—have been changing as well. Root harvests come earlier. The elevations at which huckleberries grow has been

climbing.

“We’ve been witnessing climate change effects a lot longer than most people have been aware,” Jeremy says. “Being so connected to the land, it’s made us much more aware of the changes that have been invisible to a lot of people.”

Indigenous knowledge systems can play a role in advancing understanding of climate change, and in developing more comprehensive climate adaptation strategies. This knowledge is valuable in part because a focus is on understanding relationships of interdependency, relying on multi-generational knowledge of ecosystem phenology—the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena—and ecological shifts.

Indigenous adaptation planning, including considerations of issues such as flooding and water rights, benefits from a greater focus on participatory planning in natural resource management.

This planning incorporates local knowledge and values from conception through implementation in ways that ensure the protection of indigenous knowledges, and indigenous peoples’ rights not to share sensitive information. In this way, traditional ways of knowing are contributing to sustainable land management practices under changing environmental conditions.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, through the Natural Resources Branch, has completed many

Report critical of federal prosecution rate

In 2017 the U.S. Department of Justice declined to prosecute more than a third of cases referred to them in Indian Country.

A recent report reveals that U.S. attorneys’ offices left 37 percent

of referred cases from Indian Country unprosecuted in 2017.

Federal crime data has long suggested that Indian reservations have higher rates of violent crime than the national average, espe-

cially when it comes to violence against women.

Of the cases that went unprosecuted, over a quarter were allegations of sexual assault against children and adults.

Tribal housing at river going forward

The tribal housing project at the Columbia River has resumed.

The decision by the federal government comes after more than a year of delay.

The obligation to build the housing dates back more than 80 years, when tribal housing was flooded by dams on the Columbia.

The Oregon and Washington Congressional delegation sponsored the bill that would provide the funding for the housing. This was done with support from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Umatilla and Nez Perce.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has been another advocate.

With the funding in place, the Corps of Engineers can plan the housing construction. At that point funding would be needed for the actual construction.

Meanwhile, a separate bill is proposed that would fix the ex-

isting 31 fishing sites on the Columbia. The sites are maintained and operated by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which took on the task because no one else was doing it. The fish commission largely focuses on salmon restoration and managing tribal fishing on the Columbia River.

The money to maintain the sites is quickly running out because it was created with estimates that undercounted how many people would use the sites.

The Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act would allow the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to evaluate what improvements are needed at the sites and how much money it would take to bring them up to a safe, sanitary standard.

The bill has already passed out of the Senate and is with the House, awaiting a vote. From there, it would go to President Trump for approval.

Native woman missing in Wash. after going to casino two months ago

Rosenda Strong, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, has been missing for almost two months in Washington state.

Strong, a 31-year-old mother of four, went to the Legends Casino on the Yakama Nation on October 2. She hasn’t been seen by family since.

“Bring her home! That’s all

anybody ever wants,” Roxanne White, an advocate for missing and murdered Native women and girls, said at a prayer walk and vigil for Strong on the reservation.

A new law in Washington requires the state to identify Native women who have gone missing. A report is due June 1, 2019, in hopes of addressing what advocates have called an epidemic.

A Year in Review ~ 2018 ~

January

The year began with the crowning of **Miss Warm Springs 2018** Thyreicia Simtustus.

The Miss Warm Springs Pageant was a part of Thyreicia’s busy schedule. She goes to college in Bend two days a week, studying to become a professional helicopter pilot, and was working in Prineville on the other weekdays.

The tribal royalty part of her new position—skill at horseback riding, for instance—will be familiar to Reicia: She was the 2017 Miss Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow Queen, and the 2014 Miss Pi-Ume-Sha Princess.

Thyreicia is a 2017 graduate of Madras High School. Thyreicia now goes to Central Oregon Community College, where she studies in the COCC Aviation program, focusing on commercial helicopter piloting.

Thyreicia became the Forty-Second Miss Warm Springs. As an ambassador of the Confederated Tribes, she represents Warm Springs at powwows and other community events. In other news from January 2018:

The New Year saw job fairs hosted by the **Plateau Travel Plaza and Indian Head Casino**. Jobs are available at the casino, and soon will be open at the Travel Plaza, set to open in early spring. Elsewhere this month:

The school district 509-J is en-



Miss Warm Springs 2018 Thyreicia Simtustus is given the crown by Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf.

gaging Warm Springs families in developing **Impact Aid Indian Policies and Procedures**. The district conducted a survey about the draft policies and procedures. Results were shared in early January with the Warm Springs community. And this:

Tribal Council began the year with enterprise updates—including

the latest on Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. Elsewhere:

One of the memorable activities at the **Winter Prevention Camp** was the building of a natural fire, using only sticks and a bow strung with parachute chord. From Warm Springs, Silas Howtopat was able to get the fire going.

“You have to have a positive mind set and a good heart to accomplish that,” said Scott Kalama at Prevention.

A remote camera set up in the forest and monitored by the tribal Branch of Natural Resources shows **two wolves on the Warm Springs Reservation**.

This is the first time multiple wolves have been confirmed in the northern portion of the Oregon Cascade Mountains, since the ani-

mals returned in the late 2000s. Confirmation of multiple wolves together is significant.

There have been many reported sightings over the years of single wolves in the region. A single wolf traveling alone could indicate the animal is moving through the area, looking for a more permanent territory.

More than one wolf—a pair or pack—could indicate the animals are living in the region more permanently, and possibly breeding.

Pioneer Rock & Monument
201 Crafton Rd - PO Box 348 509-773-4702
GOLDENDALE, WA 98620

Family owned business, making custom **HEADSTONES** for the people of Warm Springs for 31 years



Something for every budget; payment plans available

Check out our work in the **GALLERY** at www.pioneerrock.com