

Tribal water, landfill talk with senator

Senator Jeff Merkley met with the community, including Tribal Council members and staff, in early January. The town hall, and the talk with Council, happened at the Madras Performing Arts Center.

Topics of discussion ranged from concerns about over-use of air space above the Jefferson County area to perspective on escalations in the Middle East.

Discussion topics specific to the tribes included the domestic water issue facing the reservation, said Councilwoman Anita Jackson. Sen. Merkley wants to help address the safe drinking water on the reservation, Councilwoman Jackson said.

Last month Merkley was among the lawmakers to introduce federal legislation to improve water quality and services for tribal communities in Oregon.

The federal law would add to the \$7.8 million approved for the Confederated Tribes by the state legislature and governor.

Councilwoman Jackson also brought up the issue of



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley addresses the town hall at the Performing Arts Center.

the tribal landfill, which is significant need of attention. The landfill need situation is not as publicized as the water crisis, but is of great importance, Jackson said.

Councilman Wilson Wewa also spoke with Sen. Merkley, bringing up the need to address inequities in the federal tax laws. The tax code, specifically the 2018 changes, disproportionately

benefit corporations and the wealthy, leaving out people of average or lower income, Councilman Wewa said.

Also representing the tribes at the meeting with the senator were Councilman Glendon Smith, and tribal governmental affairs director Lewis Pitt.

During the town hall, Sen. Merkley presented Dan O'Brien, of the

Jefferson County Cultural Coalition, with a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

The presentation was in recognition of the Coalition's efforts to increase local participation in the arts, and in celebrating the varied cultures and histories of Jefferson County.

About 175 people attended the town hall, January 4.

To wood cutters from the Timber Committee

To tribal wood cutters: Your resale permits for 2019 will expire on January 31. You will need to complete the transport process from the woods to your residence by the end of the month.

The 2020 resale permits will be the only legal permits after January 31. This applies to the 2020 permits issued in 20 ½ cord permits or ten 1-full cord permits.

We are also in discussions of moving toward electronic permits for the 2021 wood cutting year that would be for both free use and resale permits.

The committee will have public meetings in the future to allow tribal members a chance to voice their opinion or concerns with this proposed process.

The committee will put public announcements out with dates, locations and times of the public meetings.

Hemp plan submission

The U.S. Department of Agriculture hemp regulations were posted in the fall, requiring state and tribal governments to submit plans to address the regulations, re-grading CBD production and products.

The 2019 Farm Bill considers CBD as a standard agricultural crop.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Cannabis Project, or CP Enterprise, submitted its in November.

Last week the USDA published a list of plans submitted for approval. The status

of the Warm Springs Plan was listed as one of three tribes with plans 'under review; for being received before regulations were in place.

The Warm Springs Cannabis legal team has reviewed that status, made changes to the Warm Springs Plan, and has re-submitted to the USDA.

According to Ventures CP Enterprise cannabis coordinator Laurie Danzuka, they hope to be listed as approved in the next round of USDA approvals.

Confluence Project events set for 2020

The Confluence Project is a series of outdoor installations and interpretive artworks located in public parks along the Columbia River and its tributaries. Each art installation explores the confluence of history, culture and ecology of the Columbia River system. Confluence invites tribal members to these upcoming events:

Stories from the river screening: Indigenous elders and leaders from the Columbia River share personal stories and insights about the history, culture, and ecology of the land and its people.

This series of documentary shorts is a collaboration of Confluence and Woodrow Hunt (Klamath/Modoc/Cherokee) of Tule Films. The screening is presented in partnership with the Native American Arts Council, as part of the



The last public appearance of Chief Tommy Thompson, photographed here with his wife Flora, as they were arriving in Celilo for the Feast of the First Salmon on Saturday, May 11, 1957. Find more images at the Confluence Library Galleries: confluenceproject.org/library/view/

Northwest Film Center Northwest Tracker series. Screenings on February 6 at 7 p.m. at the Northwest Film Center, 934 SW Salmon St., Portland.

Basketry workshop: Learn traditional weaving practices from Grand Ronde educator Greg Archuleta. This day-long

workshop will leave you with new knowledge about an old craft from the Indigenous cultures of the Columbia River. Greg will teach how to prepare cedar for basket making, plaiting and two weaving methods to complete your basket. This will be at the Confluence office in Vancouver. \$65 per per-

son. March 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Earth Day work party: Confluence, The Mission Continues, The City of Vancouver and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will partner to organize a volunteer Earth Day work party. The work will be tending the Land Bridge that connects the community to this special place along the river. Volunteers will shovel, haul and spread mulch, pick up trash, weed and plant. April 18.

Confluence on the road: Confluence on the Road is experiential opportunity for teachers and education leaders to dig deeper into the storied landscape of the Columbia River system. The journey includes guided visits to sites of cultural and environmental significance with Indigenous speakers to hear first-person insights into Native traditions and history.

Native fellowship in Portland for cancer research

Applications are now available for the Tribal Researchers' Cancer Control Fellowship Program. The overall goal of this program is to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, and improve cancer survival in tribal communities through the efforts of American Indian researchers.

The fellowship program offers training and mentorship to prepare researchers to design and implement cancer-related

research projects within Native American communities. Costs associated with the training, including travel, will be covered.

American Indian graduate students and researchers with a demonstrated interest in cancer prevention and control are welcome to apply.

Accepted fellows will:

- Attend three-weeks of tailored cancer control research training held at the Northwest Portland Area In-

dian Health Board in Portland.

The first two weeks will be June 7-19 followed by a one-week session in the fall.

- Fellows will receive follow-up support, including field support, distance learning opportunities, and mentoring.

- You will be eligible for paid cancer control research internships to master additional research skills relevant to careers in community-based cancer control under

close mentorship.

- And be connected to a network of experts in cancer control and prevention in Indian Country.

Due date: Application materials will be due March 13. For more information contact Ashley Thomas at athomas@npaih.org

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, 2121 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201. Phone 503-416-3293.

Be alert and protect yourself from scams

It's important to be aware of scams that target you and your money. If you get a message threatening your social security benefits or making false promises opportunities to buy something or invest money... it's likely a scam.

You might get a call, a

robocall, a text, email or letter with an offer that sounds too good to be true, or that threatens if you don't send money for some made up purpose.

Be Aware that there are bad people out there, trying to scam you out of your money. Be alert and protect

yourself by not falling for fraudulent claims.

If your phone rings and it's a number you don't know just don't answer. Or if you get an email from an address you don't know just delete it. Never provide anyone with your personal information.

Be alert and protect yourself by not falling for fraudulent claims. To learn more visit:

usa.gov and search 'scams'

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Flu season update

The flu season is here and may be approaching its peak. In Central Oregon last year the peak was in March, and in 2018 the peak was in January.

During the final week of last month in Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties there were 147 emergency rooms visits, compared to 136 the week before, according to county re-

ports. Warm Springs Indian Health Service clinic director Hyllis Dauphinais says it is important for people to get their flu vaccination, which are still available at the clinic.

The Oregon health Authority estimates that 45 percent of all Oregonians, six months and older, received a flu vaccine.

COCC scholarship day, financial aid

The Bend and Redmond campuses of Central Oregon Community College are hosting Scholarship Day from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22.

The day is to help current and prospective students discover and maximize their financial aid options for the 2020-21 academic year.

The Bend campus event is at the Coats Campus Center; the Redmond campus event is held in building 1.

Both are open to the general public—no registration is required. Workshops start each hour on the hour and cover topics like essay writing and strategies for multiple scholarships.

Both locations will offer valuable information on scholarship and grant opportunities, as well as specifics on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) processes, including all deadlines. For more details, contact

COCC's Financial Aid office at 541-383-7260 or coccfinaid@coccedu

Health degrees

COCC's Bend campus is hosting an information session on its Allied Health programs from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, in the Health Careers Center, room 140.

The health programs covered will include dental assistant, massage therapy, medical assistant, pharmacy technician and veterinary technician.

The session will include a description of each occupation, the typical clinical and administrative duties, as well as the certification or licensing required.

There will also be a review of the structure, length and cost of each of the programs.

It is not necessary to be enrolled at COCC to attend this session. Reservations are not required.

For information, call 541-383-7420.