

Letters to the editor

Native jazz performance

Julia Keefe is a Nez Perce tribal member, and a nationally acclaimed jazz vocalist, actor and educator. She will premier the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band—an all-Indigenous 16-piece big band—on May 19 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia, Washington.

Indigenous jazz musicians, ensembles and big bands have their place in the contemporary jazz world, as well as jazz history. There were small ensembles and big bands on reservations across the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and several indigenous musicians who ascended to celebrity with jazz as their medium.

From time immemorial, songs have been the vessels for prayers and stories for the Indigenous people of the Americas. The goals of the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band are to celebrate and continue that tradition, to compose and perform new music inspired by traditional melodies, and to create a community of life-minded peoples from all backgrounds to uplift the next generation of Indigenous jazz musicians. For more information see the website:

washingtoncenter.org/event/julia-keefe-indigenous-big-band/

Spring fitness

Fitness classes are happening at the old elementary school gymnasium. On Mondays there is Power Lunch at 12:10 p.m., including strength training, and HIIT and cardio.

Tuesdays feature Power Up at 6 a.m., strength and cardio, and Yoga Strong at 12:10 p.m. Thursdays are Power Lunch at 12:10 p.m., strength training, HIIT and cardio. And Fridays are Yoga Strong at 12:10 p.m.

W.S. Young Life

The Warm Springs Young Life Club meets every Thursday from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at the modulars by the old elementary school.

Young Life Club is a youth ministry for sixth- through twelfth grades.

At their regular gatherings, they are cooking fry bread, Indian tacos, dumplings and more, every Thursday in April.

For information contact

James Keo at 541-460-2843; Urbana Manion at 541-419-4821; or Earl Simmons, 541-815-0992.

Rezfest 2022

Rezfest 2022 is coming up in Warm Springs on Saturday, May 7. The show will feature Damage Overdose, of Warm Springs; Guardians from Arizona; and Bad Omen of Seattle.

More performances will be by Blue Flamez of Warm Springs; and Eagle Thunder, also of Warm Springs. More will be announced.

Damage Overdose is celebrating its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary.

All ages are welcome. The doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available through:

brownpapertickets.com Or through Damage Overdose, or Chuck Hudson.

Concessions will be available, and donations are welcome.

Come celebrate with meal, hip hop and pow-wow drum.

Tribal survey

The Confederated Tribes conducted a community survey earlier this year.

The purpose of the survey was to help decide how funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, funds will be spent.

One of the areas was gauging interest in working for the tribes, where 15.4 percent said yes, with 28.6 percent unsure, and an overwhelming 40.7 percent saying no.

Some of the reasons for not wanting to work with for the tribes is 'extreme low pay,' inexperienced managers and housing issues as well as the Covid-19 vaccine mandate for workers of the tribes.

In another section of the survey there were many different categories presented, among them, Public Health and Wellness, Culture and Heritage, housing and more.

Some other potential ARPA funding priorities mentioned were the ball fields, increases to employees pay, and fixing water issues, among others.

Some survey details are on page 8 of this publication.

The next Spilyay submission deadline is Friday, April 15.

Visit thrift stores to help with good causes

There are some great local thrift stores offering a variety of discount items, and training opportunities for young people, helping with their education.

The Possibilities Thrift Store is in Madras by the Dollar Tree on Highway 26, operated by the Opportunity Foundation.

The Heart of Oregon Corps Thrift Store is on Fifth.

The motto of the Possibilities Thrift Store is 'Empowering People of

Diverse Abilities.'

The store is one of the programs of the Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon, dedicated to helping young people pursue their education and work careers. Young people of Warm Springs have joined the Opportunity Foundation, earning school credits and money, including at the Thrift Store.

Possibilities Thrift Store is open Tuesday through Saturday. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Some items on sale at the store.



William Clements Jr. was working at the Heart of Oregon Corps Thrift Store recently. He started there last month.


Madras
Possibilities Thrift Store
Empowering People of Diverse Abilities

Store Open Weekly Tuesday through Saturday
Store Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Donation Hours: Thurs, Fri, Sat 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
MADRAS - 1412 SW Hwy 97 - Next to Dollar Tree - 541-475-6961
Don't Forget Weekly Bag Sale and Senior/Veteran Discounts!

\$5 OFF
Any Purchase
\$10 or more

COUPON REQUIRED. CANNOT COMBINE WITH OTHER OFFERS. Madras

Now selling Pierce Footwear!
A great running shoe at our store only for 50% off retail!
www.piercefootwear.com



Columbia Fisheries: Working Together to Develop a Path Forward

by **Deb Haaland**
Secretary of the Interior and Interior staff

The Columbia River and its tributaries are the life spring of the Pacific Northwest.

The Columbia River Basin was also once among the most productive aquatic ecosystems in the world with an estimated 7.5 to 16 million adult salmon and steelhead returning to Pacific Northwest tributaries each year, providing food for over 130 wildlife species, including orca, bears and wolves. The salmon and steelhead sustained the cultures and economies of tribal nations since time immemorial, and in turn, tribes successfully managed these fisheries for millennia.

Today, the river provides energy to communities and business, irrigation water for thousands of farms, transportation services, recreational opportunities, and vital habitat for fish and wildlife species.

In March we convened a nation-to-nation consultation between our agencies and departments and leaders and representatives from the tribes of the Columbia River Basin.

We heard clearly the request for accountability for actions by the U.S. Government that have caused harm to the ecology of the river, its tributaries, and importantly, its first residents.

Since colonization of the Pacific Northwest, numerous tribal nations entered into treaties with the United States, ceding millions of acres of their homelands in exchange for and acknowledgement of rights already held, including, critically, the right to fish in all "usual and accustomed places."

This exchange was premised on a notion that the salmon and steelhead re-

sources of the region were "inexhaustible," a premise that subsequent human activities in the basin proved false as salmon and steelhead disappeared or significantly declined at many tribal fishing locations.

From the 1930s to the 1970s, the federal government constructed a series of 14 multi-purpose dams in the basin to address a myriad of economic challenges, and, additionally, more than 100 non-federal dams were constructed.

Communities across the Northwest have come to rely on these dams for flood risk management, water supply, irrigation, navigation, and recreation and importantly: reliable and affordable electricity.

The dams also altered free-flowing rivers, affected juvenile fish as they migrate out to sea, impeded adult fish returning to spawn, inundated tribal fishing areas and sacred sites, and forever displaced people from their homes. In the 1990s, 13 of the Columbia River Basin's salmon populations required the protection of the Endangered Species Act to survive. We have been working to stem the decline ever since.

The federal government has spent several billion dollars, in partnership with tribes, states, and non-governmental organizations, on efforts that contribute to fish recovery.

These efforts include modifying the operation and configuration of the federal dams to improve passage conditions for fish, investing in hatchery facilities to produce and supplement tribal and non-tribal fisheries and improving fish habitat, changing flow augmentation releases from some projects to counteract warmer water, and implanting programs to transport juvenile fish downstream by barge and truck.

States have also funded recovery programs, pur-

chased, protected, and restored fish and wildlife habitat; and overseen numerous habitat improvement measures. Tribes are also implementing their own comprehensive recovery plans that integrate indigenous and western science to heal the ecosystem through innovative projects.

Despite hard work, ingenuity, great expense, and commitment across all levels of federal, state, tribal and local governments and a wide range of stakeholders, many fish populations in the Columbia River Basin—salmon, steelhead, and others—have not recovered, some continue to decline, and many areas remain inaccessible to them.

We heard a specific example of a fishery where there has been no measurable improvement, about the ongoing and acute harm experienced by tribes in blocked areas where salmon and steelhead no longer exist, and about the deep and emotional experience of seeing fish return again.

For the tribes, their past, present, and future is inextricably linked to the continued existence of salmon and the health of the rivers that support them, which is why the tribes experience profound consequences from the dwindling salmon runs.

As the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the National Congress of American Indians explained in resolutions passed last year, the basin faces not only an environmental crisis, but an environmental justice crisis too.

The tribal leaders welcomed the dialogue, and they made clear that they want more than words. They brought ideas to the table and they want action.

We heard calls to support breaching the four dams on the lower Snake River to restore a more natural flow,

also about the need to replace the services provided by those dams, and recognition that such a step would require Congressional action.

This approach has been supported by Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, and is being evaluated by Washington Senator Patty Murray in collaboration with Washington Governor Jay Inslee.

We heard a request to fully fund fish and wildlife restoration and to vest in tribes and states a stronger role in managing those funds.

Relatedly, we heard a consistent theme that the current fish mitigation funding is mismatched with the burdens experienced by tribes: It is too little in light of the scale of the harms and the extent of restoration needed, and the locations and species benefited are not in proportion to the impacts.

We heard a request to support reintroduction of salmon in areas that historically yielded abundant populations, but are fully blocked by dams lacking fish passage: the Upper Columbia and Upper Snake.

We heard that the expertise and sovereignty of the tribes should be recognized in federal agency processes and actions that might affect the basin. We agree.

Respecting the sovereignty of tribal nations and their knowledge and expertise is a priority for this administration.

As we reflect on what we heard, we know that any long-term solution must account for the varied and crucial services provided by the dams, as well as the people, communities, and industries who rely upon them.

We cannot continue business as usual. Doing the right thing for salmon, tribal nations, and communities can bring us together. It is time for effective, creative solutions.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memorium: Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to **Spilyay Tymoo** should be addressed to:

Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 489, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521

E-Mail: david.mcmechan@wstribes.org.
Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00