

## Letters to the editor

### Commemorative Academy plaque

To Laurie Danzuka, school district chair, members of Jefferson County School District No. 509-J Board of Directors, and the Warm Springs Tribal Council: Regarding the Commemorative Plaque for the Warm Springs K-8 Academy:

On Monday, May 9 at the Jefferson County school board meeting I asked the board for permission to hang a plaque at the Warm Springs Academy K-8 school.

The plaque displays documents from the August, 2014 school building dedication, telling the story of how the new school was developed and came to be approved by the Warm Springs Tribal Council, in a tribal referendum, and the school district in a bond levy.

The plaque also lists the names of the people involved in working together to have the school approved and built. I explained to the school board that I created the plaque so that the Warm Springs Academy students would know that their school is the result of the hard work and dedication over many years of many tribal and school district leaders.

Prior to asking the school board, I received approval of my request from the Warm Springs Tribal Council. A Sincere Thank You to all the members of the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council, and Thank You to the school board members for approving my request. My family and I greatly appreciate the respectful and thoughtful manner in which the school board members honored my appearance before the board and granted my request.

I would also like to thank

School Board Chair Laurie Danzuka for asking Tribal Councilman Carlos Calica to sing a prayer song before I spoke to the board members.

A big Thank You to Carlos for your warm hearted and sincere songs and prayers, and the words you spoke on behalf of my daughter atwai Urbana 'ToTo' Ross, and the support you gave—You are greatly appreciated.

Last but not least I want to thank my niece Jenea 'Jenny' Frye for her support and time to drive me to Michaels in Bend for the materials for the plaque. Sincerely,

**Arlene Boileau**, tribal member.

### Red during month of May

During the month of May, we wear red in support and solidarity of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People—or MMIWG2S.

We wear red to include our response in the Red Dress Project—an art installation and movement designed to bring visibility to the critical issue of MMIWG2S.

MMIWG2S is a crisis, and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center has provided an MMIW Toolkit for Families and Communities.

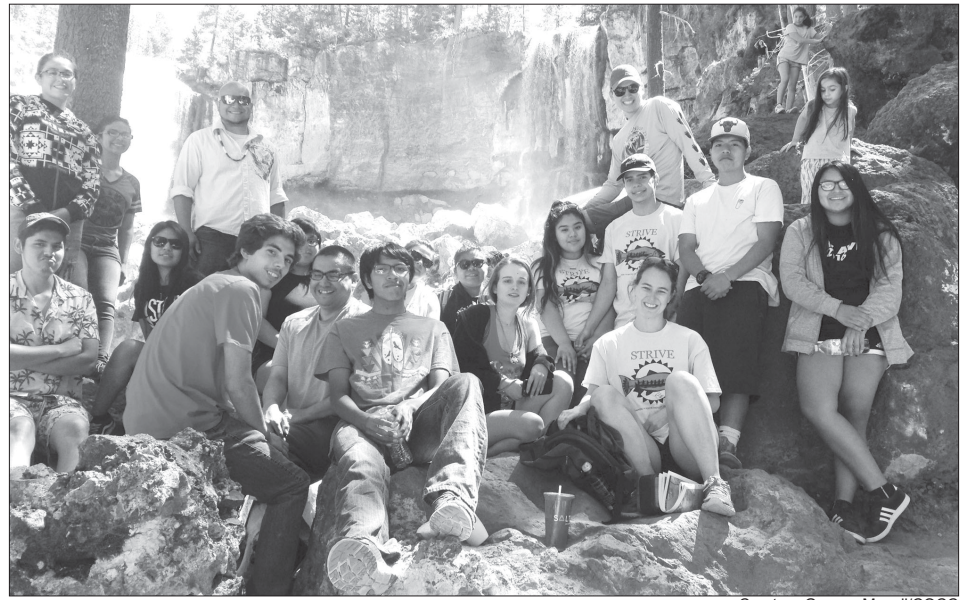
The tool kit is designed to assist families, communities and advocacy organizations in understanding and responding to a case of a missing or murdered Native woman. See the the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center website to find the kit. **Aii.**

## Students invited to summer STRIVE at college

STRIVE is the Central Oregon Community College summer program for Native American high school students. This is a chance to earn a college credit, and get ready for after high school. STRIVE stands for Summer Training to Revive Indigenous Visions and Empowerment.

Geneva Mayall, Native American College Preparation Coordinator, is recruiting high school students to join the four-day program. During the four days, from June 21-24, the students spend their time at the COCC Bend campus, attending classes, living in the residence halls, getting to know the school and opportunities.

The priority is for high school seniors, though STRIVE is open to any high school stu-



Courtesy Geneva Mayall/COCC

Warm Springs STRIVE students at previous summer gathering.

dent, said Ms. Mayall, herself a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, based in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

STRIVE is free to Native American high school students. During the in-person residential program, stu-

dents take classes from college professors, connect with Native college mentors, participate in workshops with tribal leaders and program staff, and explore pathways for serving their communities through higher education.

Transportation from Warm Springs or Madras can be arranged.

For more information and to apply, please visit the website or contact Geneva at: gmayall2@cocc.edu Phone 541-330-4369.

### Free air purifiers for wildfire zones

Recent summers have broken records in terms of wildfires in Oregon, including the reservation. Flames have destroyed approximately 4,000 homes and 1 million acres of land. Smoke entered homes and lungs in every corner of the state.

State of Oregon lawmakers responded by funding air purifiers for people in communities where wildfires are common.

The air purifiers make up a tiny slice of a \$220 million investment in wildfire prevention and response planning, power plant safety, new building code standards and more. Getting the devices into homes is one of the hardest parts, and the state is getting help from five Coordinated Care Organizations in the targeted wildfire risk zones.

### Summer outdoor work, pay and credits for youth

Summer outdoor job options for youth of the region just received close to a million-dollar boost, as the Heart of Oregon Corps and the Oregon Conservation Corps secured wildfire risk reduction funding. The \$995,000 goes to youth of Jefferson, Deschutes and Crook counties.

The Heart of Oregon Corps program will train and employ over 140 young adults in wildfire reduction and related skills. In addition to gaining on-the-job training, certifications, and knowledge in fire fuel reduction practices, youth in the program will receive wages, scholarships, additional workforce training in both soft and hard skills to prepare them to enter the professional workforce.

Youth crews will start project work on identified high risk areas this



Courtesy Heart of Oregon Corps

Summer youth worker from last session.

month, and will continue through June of 2023. Young adult and staff positions are available now and applications are at: heartoforegon.org

#### Summer session in June

The Heart of Oregon Corps outdoor summer program is open to youth ages 17-24. There are full- and part-time positions, during

which the students can earn scholarship money.

The Participants can also earn certifications in CPR/First and Aid, chainsaw training, and more.

This is also a chance for young people to meet new people, learn job skills, and work outside. See the website: heartoforegon.org

### Youth can apply now for tribal summer work

Warm Springs youth interested in summer work can apply now. The first day of work will be Tuesday, July 5.

It's open to students ages

14 to 24. They will need to provide proof of tribal memberships, transcripts, a resume with cover letter and a Covid-19 vaccination card.

Apply online at the Confederated Tribes' job opportunities website. The youth work program is listed under 'Assorted work experience jobs (youth)'.

Or stop by the Education Building, top floor, office 307. Intakes can be done by calling 541-553-3324. For more details on requirements call 541-553-3324.

Coming in July 2022

Dial 988

from any phone to get help.

If you need immediate help now, Text NATIVE to 741741.



The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board suicide prevention project—the Tribal Health-Reaching out Involves Everyone, or THRIVE—has partnered with the Indian

Health Services, tribes and tribal organizations across Indian Country. Together, they are developing the 988 direct 3-digit mental health emergency resource. The service is going live in July.

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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

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