

## Letters to the editor

### A thank you

We want to thank all participants of the Clarion Call Revival meeting.

Thank you Glendon Smith, and thank you to Eugene Greene and support staff for use of the pavilion and field.

Thank you to the Emergency Preparedness Team, and thank you Public Utilities for your assistance. Thank you Joie for your participation from the Sanitation Department, and Natural Resources for the fish and deer meat.

Thank you Tribal Police Department for security of the tent, and thank you KWSO for announcements.

A special thank you to Mina Estimo and Mona Jim.

**Valerie Fuiava, Urbana Manion and Sue Harrison** want to thank all those in attendance who responded to the Clarion Call meeting.

We thank the Lord for each of you, and to each group above mentioned. We know that it could not have been done without unity and working in one accord. Thank you Jesus, and God Bless you all.

### ECE Round-Up

In-coming 3-year-old and returning 4-year-olds are invited this Wednesday, August 24 to the Early Childhood Education Round-Up at the Warm Springs IHS clinic. Call 541-553-2610 to schedule. Scheduling for the round-up includes:

A medical provider appointment for a physical. Dental provider appointment for dental screening. Limited vision screening. Contact ECE for questions regarding the Head Start program, 541-553-3240.

### Time to sport

Sports physicals for students are coming up on Thursday, September 1 at the Warm Springs Indian Health Service clinic. The state of Oregon requires annual physicals prior to students participating in any school sport.

Call IHS to schedule an appointment, 541-553-2610. A parent or guardian is required at the appointment. There are covid precautions, so only the student and parent or guardian are allowed at the appointment.

### Birth

*Benito Noel Arthur*

Gonzalo Arthur and Monica Arthur of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Benito Noel Arthur, born on August 15, 2022.

Benito joins brothers Keanu, 17, Kody, 16 and Adonai, 9; and sister Monai, 2.

### Invitation to W.S. veterans

The Oregon Airshow of the Cascades is coming up on Friday and Saturday, August 26-27 at the Madras Airfield.

They show will feature U.S. Army Black Hawk tours, fireworks, glider rides, live music, and the Erickson Air Museum.

The organizers are looking for Warm Springs veterans who may be interested attending the airshow this year. They are hoping Warm Springs veterans will attend and tour some of the aircraft, and potentially fly in one.

If there are any Warm Springs veterans who plan on attending, please contact Amy at 541-553-2134.

## A reservation tour, meeting with Gov. Brown

Governor Kate Brown visited Warm Springs and the reservation for two days in August. Her time with the tribes included a government-to-government meeting with the Tribal Council, a salmon bake at HeHe, a tour of the Museum at Warm Springs, and a visit with Health and Human Services.

As governor, Ms. Brown has been a long-time friend of the tribes.

She was especially supportive of the Confederated Tribes' successful and historic Congressional nullification of the 1865 document.

During her political career, Gov. Brown has served in the Oregon House and Senate, and

as Secretary of State. She has been elected twice to the governorship. Because of term limits, she is not running in this November's election.

Meeting with Tribal Council during her recent visit, the governor and Council reviewed the reservation domestic water projects, among other pending and vital issues. Gov. Brown also visited Health and Human Services, the homeless transition shelter, and the Native American Youth Suicide Hot Line office.

Along with tribal officials and staff, she was accompanied by the Oregon executive director of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, Mr. Patrick Flanagan.

After meeting with Tribal Council the governor commented, "Ongoing water

treatment infrastructure challenges are incredibly concerning, and I appreciate the opportunity to hear directly from the tribe on how they are working to use all available resources to address

these issues. And I am grateful for every opportunity to strengthen Oregon's long-standing government-to-government relationship with the Warm Springs Tribes."



The governor and tribal friends, including tribal attorney Howie Arnett, meet for the salmon bake at HeHe.



Governor Brown outside the administrative building with Bobby Brunoe, secretary-treasurer; and Tribal Council members Lincoln Jay Suppah, Rosa Graybael, Alvis Smith III and vice chairman Captain Moody.

*Duncan Brunoe photos/KWSO*



The governor visits the innovative Shelter to Independent Living housing facility with Caroline Cruz and staff of Health and Human Services.

## Imprisoned for fishing, he fights for sacred rights

Wilbur Slockish Jr. has been shot at, and has had rocks hurled at him. He has had to hide out for months, then spent another 20 months serving time in federal prisons across the country—all of that for fishing in the Columbia River.

And yet Slockish, a traditional river chief of the Klickitat Band of the Yakama Nation, would endure it all again to protect his right of access to the river and the fish that his people believe were bestowed to them by the Creator.

"It's a sacred covenant," he said. "Nothing's more important."

Slockish hasn't stopped fighting for the river. After his release from prison, he



Wilbur Slockish Jr. lifetime dedicated to tribal fishing.

focused his efforts on water quality and health issues related to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Benton County, Washington, which was decommissioned in 1989. The plant released significant amounts

of radioactive waste into the river, causing irreparable ecological harm.

For the past two decades, Slockish has made presentations at local elementary schools around Thanksgiving about the spiritual signifi-

cance of the river and its fish.

He has represented the Yakama Nation on several river-related commissions and committees and still serves on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which represents the tribes and their rights along the river.

Slockish and the other fishermen's high-profile case has helped bring attention to their issues and given tribes better access to the river, said Jeremy FiveCrows, the organization's spokesman.

The 20 months Slockish spent in prison "were hell," but it's all about keeping a promise he made as a 14-year-old—to the first salmon he ever caught—to be a good steward of the land.

## Columbia River salmon are core of ancient religion

For thousands of years Native tribes in this area have relied on Nch'i-Wána, 'the great river,' for its salmon and steelhead trout. The tribes have also relied on the surrounding areas of the Nch'i-Wána for the fields bearing edible roots, medicinal herbs and berry bushes, as well as the deer and elk whose meat and hides are used for food and ritual.

That reliance transcends the material realm into the spiritual, as the acts of gathering, consuming and respecting those foods are inextricably linked to the tribes' religious practice.

Yet now the river is under threat. Warming



Northwest tribal fishing community.

waters linked to climate change endanger the salmon, as these fish rely on cooler temperatures to survive.

Hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and its tributaries have curtailed the river's flow, further imperiling salmon's migration from the Pacific upstream to their freshwater spawning grounds.

Industrial pollution is a threat: Testing by the Columbia Riverkeeper, a non-profit that aims to protect water quality, shows that fish caught in the area are contaminated with flame retardants; polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs; and heavy metals.

Pollution, dams and cli-

mate change are not only threatening the health of the river and its habitat, but also the millennia-old spiritual traditions that hold Native communities together.

We are the salmon people or river people. Without water there are no fish, plants or herbs. And as stated earlier: Fishing, gathering, consuming and respecting these foods are inextricably linked to the tribes' religious practice.

**Aja DeCoteau**, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, representing interests of the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes.



2022 SPORTS PHYSICAL DATES AT I.H.S

The State of Oregon require annual physicals prior to participating in any school sport

Sports physical clinics will be held at I.H.S on the following dates:

**September 1st, 2022**

Call I.H.S to schedule 541-553-2610

PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUIRED AT APPOINTMENT

COVID Precautions  
only student and guardian  
allowed at appointment

**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.

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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00