

## Letters to the editor

### From tribal administration

Conference Room 3 at the administration building is first come first serve: When scheduling, you need to request at least two weeks in advance.

When you need to cancel or postpone your request, please share this information as soon as possible, in order to give another person or department a chance to book the room. Also, the Secretary-Treasurer has priority on Conference Room 1. At administration, CR schedules these meetings.

### From Pastor

Pastor Rick invites the community to senior citizen YouTube exercise at 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Tuesdays are noon Potluck Devotion and video Bible study at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m. is home economic skills training and AA at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call 541-325-1741.

### Land Return

The Yakama Nation is celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the 'Land Return Ceremony.' Fifty years ago in 1972, President Richard Nixon issued an executive order that affirmed Mount Adams sits within the boundaries of the Yakama Nation.

However, the Yakama Tribal Council says the order did not settle the dis-

pute, since Klickitat County argued Mount Adams along with 121,000 acres should be treated as state land.

However, since then, the U.S. Supreme Court has confirmed the land belongs to the Yakama Nation.

### Jack-o-Lantern carving contest

A Jack-O-Lantern competition is coming up at the Madras Halloween Night Market at the Fifth and D streets, happening Saturday evening, October 22 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Using real pumpkins, participants can carve, paint or decorate their pumpkins. Complete pumpkins can be dropped off at the Art Adventure Gallery, 185 SE Fifth St., on Friday and Saturday, October 21-22, between noon and 4 p.m.

Winners will be determined by the People's Choice voting at the Halloween Night Market the October 22 Saturday evening. Voting categories include:

Best painted, carved or decorated pumpkin—Ages 12 and under. Best painted, carved or decorated pumpkining—13 and up. Best painted, carved or decorated pumpkin by a business. And best painted, decorated or craved pumpkin design inspired by Madras.

Winners will be notified by the Art Adventure Gallery, so please make sure your contact information is included when you drop off your entry.

### Pay increase

Heart of Oregon Corps is taking action during these times of inflation and increased housing costs to support the young people in our community. Heart of Oregon Corps is announcing major increases in its stipend-based job training programs this fall. Stipends are increasing about 30 percent for two AmeriCorps National Service-based programs including: YouthBuild and High Desert Conservation Corps.

Youth and young adults in these programs earn stipends while learning job skills during AmeriCorps service. AmeriCorps service projects include constructing affordable housing, supporting non-profit childcare centers, and improving public lands.

Along with these changes Heart of Oregon Corps is renaming their 'AmeriCorps' program to the 'High Desert Conservation Corps.' This program, which started in 2006, is a year-round, non-residential young adult conservation corps. That means that central Oregon-based young adults serve on dynamic, local crews that leave and return daily to improve public lands right in their own backyards.

Many young members of the tribes have taken part in Heart of Oregon Corps programs, helping them graduate high school, earn college credits, learn job skills, and earn money. If you are interested in earning school credits, and a good stipend, give Heart of Oregon staff a call at 541-633-7834. Or see the website: [heartforegon.org](http://heartforegon.org)

### Indigenous Food Hubs

The Department of the Interior is bolstering food sovereignty efforts across Indian Country with its new program: Indigenous Food Hubs.

The program—a partnership between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education—will bring Indigenous foods and nutritional education to Bureau of Indian Education schools and detention centers.

Indigenous food is about more than just nutrition: Food is an important part of Native cultures, traditions, history and community.

The Indigenous Food Hubs will work to provide healthier food to Indigenous communities and help to repair the damage done to Indigenous foodways by the harmful policies of the past, including colonization, relocation and assimilation of tribal communities.

For the first time, a nutritionist will be hired to support the BIE and BIA in developing and implementing culturally appropriate nutrition and training standards that draw from Indigenous knowledge.

Additionally, the program will draw upon Indigenous knowledge to develop approaches to food that incorporate: Culture, social determinants of health, nutrition, land management, and conservation.

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, **Bryan Newland** (Ojibwe).



**Warm Springs Recreation and Papsalaxamisha host Fri Yay Fun on Friday, October 14 starting at noon at the Community Wellness Center.**



Looking forward to a great Halloween with Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb.



Happy Birthday Oob - Bubba and I Love You.



Happy Birthday—Someday we'll go on a trip again!  
I Love You, Not Stopping Ever Honey!

### To farmers

The Central Oregon USDA Farm Services Agency is hosting a NAP information meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. on October 19 at the Redmond USDA Service Center conference room, located at 625 SE

Salmon Ave., Redmond.

Presentations will include NAP program information such as sign-up deadline for hay and grazing crops (November 30); coverage options, eligible crops, filing acreage reports, filing losses, submitting production and

applying for payments.

Please join the meeting to learn about the Farm Service Agency Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program—NAP. For more information call Lissa Biehn at 541-298-8559 ext. 110. Or email: [lissa.biehn@usda.gov](mailto:lissa.biehn@usda.gov)

### Court ruling threatens sovereignty, safety

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Native American leaders have called on Congress to reverse a Supreme Court ruling that expands states' ability to prosecute crimes on tribal land, a ruling they said threatens their sovereignty and their ability to protect their citizens.

Witnesses told a House Natural Resources subcommittee that the Castro-Huerta ruling tramples on 200 years of legal precedent about tribal jurisdiction and has made it harder for them to pursue cases of domestic violence or missing and murdered Indigenous people, among other crimes.

"This departure from well-established law by the U.S. Supreme Court represents a real threat to tribal sovereignty," said Cherokee Nation Attorney General Sara Hill. "No longer did states lack jurisdiction unless Congress authorized it. Now, states have jurisdiction unless Congress has specifically preempted it."

But a handful of witnesses at the hearing defended the ruling that they said lets states

take over criminal cases when tribal courts do not have the resources and federal courts are not interested.

"The consequences of this decision on victims of crime were immediate," said Matthew J. Ballard, District Attorney for Oklahoma District 12.

He said that before the Castro-Huerta ruling, offices like his "stood nullified in our efforts to ensure the safety of our communities" while federal agencies "lack the resources, capacity, and, frankly, will to execute these functions."

Muscogee (Creek) Ambassador Jonodev Chaudhuri said the Supreme Court's Castro-Huerta ruling harms tribal sovereignty but also "dangerously infringes on Congress' ability" to set laws.

"In the midst of this chaos, the Castro-Huerta decision has been a beacon of hope for Native American victims of crime," Ballard said in his written testimony.

Castro-Huerta was the second in a pair of Supreme

Court rulings that upended the prosecution of cases in Oklahoma, but its impact is being felt in Indigenous communities across the country.

The dispute began in 2020, when the court considered the case of Jimcy McGirt, a Seminole who was convicted in Oklahoma state court of sexually assaulting an Indigenous child.

McGirt argued on appeal that 19th-century boundaries for the Muscogee reservation had never been changed, and that the land where he committed his crime was still tribal territory. The Supreme Court agreed and overturned his conviction, saying state courts are prohibited from prosecuting Native Americans for crimes committed against other Indigenous people on tribal land.

McGirt was quickly retried and reconvicted in federal court, but not before the ruling set off a wave of appeals, and reversals, in Oklahoma. The state appealed dozens of those cases to the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the Victor Manuel Castro-Huerta case.

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**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](mailto:david.mcmechan@wstribes.org)  
Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00