

Letters to the editor

Wasco Sub-Chieftainship ceremony



Courtesy Smith Family

Photograph from the Wasco Sub-Chieftainship Ceremony, HeHe Longhouse 2016.

The Agency District Representatives of the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council—Chairman Jonathan Smith, Alvis Smith III, and Jim Manion—have called a public meeting on Thursday, October 20 at the Agency Longhouse to discuss the Wasco Chieftainship.

On October 4 the family of atwai Chief Alfred Smith Jr. met with Councilmen Alvis Smith III and Jim Manion to discuss Alfred's successor, who is Wissie Smith, Xupthwit, and the next steps for Wissie to fill the Wasco Chief position.

The Agency representatives and the Smith family agreed that the Smith family will attend the public meeting. The family will show the community how Wissie was selected as Alfred Smith's successor. This occurred at the HeHe Longhouse on August 27, 2016 in accordance with Section 3, Term of Office of Article 4 of the Constitutional and Bylaws, quoted here:

“Section 3. Term of Office – Members of the Council shall be elected for terms of three years except that the chiefs shall serve for life, and their successors shall be selected in accordance with tribal custom.”

Chief Alfred Smith Jr. and family held a Wasco Sub-Chief ceremony and did provide public notice to the community in the Spilya Tymoos dated, August 17, 2016 Vol. 41, No. 17 edition, which was a public event, held at a public forum, the HeHe Longhouse.

The family of atwai Chief Smith would like share pictures of the Chieftainship ceremony and explain what

occurred, and share who attended.

On August 27, 2016, Chief Smith and the family requested that drummers and dancers attend the ceremony to sing One Seven of Washut, and perform Wasco dancing and singing.

Chiefs from the river also attended the ceremony. Atwai Chief Johnny Jackson attended the ceremony and spoke about being a Chief, and about the history on the river. Chief Wilbur Slockish also attended and shared his knowledge of being a Chief and history.

Sub-Chief for Seeksequa District Gordon Scott also attended the ceremony. Although not in attendance, Paiute Chief Joe Moses acknowledged the Wasco Chief ceremony by sending a Pendleton blanket to Wissie Smith that was hand-delivered by his son to the HeHe Longhouse.

During the ceremony, the floor was opened up for anyone to speak, and people from other families and friends did express their support and appreciation to Alfred and Wissie for holding a ceremony for the Wasco Chieftainship.

Chief Smith and family did provide a meal during the ceremony for all those in attendance. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Smith family provided a Giveaway, and recognized and acknowledged the Chiefs, drummers, speakers, cooks, and every who attended, in appreciation for attending and participating throughout the ceremony.

Thank you, **Xupthwit - Wissie Smith and Family.**

Tribes join centennial celebration of Arch Bridge over Willamette

Crowds gathered earlier this month to celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Arch Bridge. The bridge crosses the Willamette River between Oregon City and West Linn.

The event included delegations from tribes that have ancestral connections to the falls seen from atop the bridge span.

Leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, and the Grand Ronde were on hand for the celebration. The day—Saturday, October 1—shut down the bridge for several hours.

Arch Bridge was originally built to replace an old suspension bridge constructed over the river in 1888. Work on the current 360-foot bridge started in 1920, and was completed in December



Daryl Robbins

Little Swan dancers, Wilson Wewa of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Gerard Rodriguez of Willamette Falls Trust stand in front of falls on the Arch Bridge between Oregon City and West Linn, during a One-Hundredth Anniversary commemoration.

1922.

The centennial event was hosted by the City of Oregon City, the City of West Linn, and the Oregon De-

partment of Transportation. On hand was the Willamette Falls Trust, a nonprofit working toward inter-tribal cooperation at the falls. The



Young traditional dancers of the Little Swans group were part of a delegation sent by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

centennial event included speeches about the bridge history and significance; art installations and historical reenactments, as well as food, live music and educational opportunities.

The tribal leaders who attended took part in a welcome ceremony and an exchange of gifts with the two cities.

Social Security

Amid record high inflation, Social Security beneficiaries will get an 8.7 percent increase to their benefits in 2023, the highest increase in 40 years. The Social Security Administration announced the change last week: The increase will result in a benefit increase of more than \$140 per month on average starting in January.

The average Social Security retiree benefit will increase \$146 per month, to \$1,827 in 2023, from \$1,681 in 2022.

The Senior Citizens League, a nonpartisan senior group, had estimated last month that the COLA could be 8.7 percent next year.

The confirmed 8.7 percent bump to benefits tops the 5.9 percent increase beneficiaries saw in 2022, which at the time was the highest in four decades.

The last time the cost-of-living adjustment was higher was in 1981, when the increase was 11.2 percent.

If you would like more information, you can talk with **Rose ‘Mushy’ Alarcon.** Her office is at the Family Resource Center. Email: rose.alarcon@wstribes.org

Or call Jackie at 541-553-4955.

Medicare - Plan C

From Managed Care: Part C open season enrollment for the Medicare Advantage Plan is from the present through December 7, for changes in 2023.

This has nothing to do with Medicare Parts A and B. This is Part C only, to apply or change whatever plan you decide to choose.

This is an individual choice if you are satisfied with your current Part C plan you do nothing. Otherwise you can change to a different plan.

You will receive letters in the mail, see advertisements on television, or even receive phone calls regarding plans that will suit you, supposedly.

Some plans are Humana, Cigna, Aetna, United Healthcare, and PacificSource just to name a few. If you are on OHP-Oregon Health Plan you do nothing.

The other open season is

different this is when applying for Parts A and B Hospital and Medical coverages for those turning 65 and older. Do not confuse the two.

Voices of the River

We are getting ready to celebrate the launch of the *Voices of the River Journal*. This is an accessible publication of stories, research papers, poetry and art that elevate Indigenous perspectives in our understanding of our region and our nation.

The *Voices of the River Journal* will launch at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 18 at the Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland.

The 28-page journal is supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It features first-person narratives by the following individuals:

Linda Meanus, Warm Springs/Celilo; and Confluence founding board chair Antone Minthorn, Umatilla; with accompanying art by Tommy Greyeyes, Navajo. Others are Rachel Cushman, Chinook; and Chance White Eyes, Oneida; Sean Smith, Chinook; and Emily Washines, Yakama.

The journal also includes

works by Carlee Wilson, Chinook; and poetry by Ed Edmo, Shoshone-Bannock.

The journal launch event will include refreshments and a panel discussion with sev-

eral of the authors and Editor Lily Hart, sharing about the pieces and the experience of working together. Journal sales will be available.

Confluence project.

For pets of the reservation

Dear Warm Springs tribal community,

I thought I would check in with you and give you an update about our pet food bank. We are regrouping, and hoping to be able to accept more families soon.

As an all-volunteer nonprofit, we are transporting and distributing over 10,000 pounds of dog food and 1,500 pounds of cat food. We are serving more than 300 families, and as of this last month we ran out of food.

My hope is that we will find a viable food distributor and partner that allows us to accept more families again. My

hope is that by the first of the year we can find an additional partner to transport and donate more food for our pet food bank.

The good news is that we do text every person on our list the day before to remind them so all families get reminders.

We are also working on putting together two more spay and neuter clinics that will either be at the Agency fire station or at Three Rivers Humane Society.

Just wanted to give you a brief update. Hope to see you soon! With gratitude,

Kelly Peterson,
Fences for Fido.



Fire discussion at Tygh Valley



Dear tribal members, Join your fire response and land management neighbors to talk about how we're adapting to wildfire in Wasco County, and learn how you can be more prepared by building an emergency 'go bag.'

There will be free go bags to the first 30 attendees.

The meeting will from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 22 at the Barlow Gate Grange. The location is 56960 Wamic Market Road, Tygh Valley. *All are welcome!*

Spilya Tymoos
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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A Happy Warm Springs Trick-or-Treat greeting from Travis Bobb.