



Spilya Taimu

Coyote News, est. 1976

November 2, 2022 - Vol. 47, No. 22

November - Anaku Ipach'aanxa Yaamash

PO Box 489
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

2023 budget, Wasco Chief meetings

November will see two important meetings at the Agency Longhouse. The General Council meeting on the 2023 budget proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7.

The Agency District meeting regarding the Wasco Chieftainship is currently scheduled for next Thursday evening, November 10 at the longhouse. The previously scheduled meeting on this subject had been postponed due to the passing of an elder of the community.

At Council in November

The following are some of the items coming up on the Tribal Council agenda for the month of November:

Monday, November 7

9 a.m.: Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Brenda Bremner, Agency Superintendent.

9:30: Office of Special Trustee update by phone with Kevin Moore, Umatilla agency BIA.

10: Realty items with Greta Whitelk of BIA, and James Halliday, Land Services.

11: Covid update with Response Team.

11:30: Legislative update calls, federal and state.

1:30 p.m.: Tribal attorneys updates.

Tuesday, November 8

9 a.m.: High Lookee Lodge update with Lonnie Parsons.

10: Indian Head Casino and Plateau Travel Plaza update with Shawn McDaniels.

See TRIBAL COUNCIL on 2

Veterans Day at Indian Head

Indian Head Casino will host a special Veterans Day Slot Tournament from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, November 11. Some of the features include a guaranteed prize payout of \$500 cash; and all buy-in revenue exceeding the guaranteed prize payout will be distributed to winners according to the payout structure: First, \$250 cash or 50 percent. Second, \$150 cash or 30 percent. And third, \$100 cash or 20 percent. These three also include a \$25 gas card.

Ten-dollar unlimited buy-ins with sign-ups starting at 4 p.m. Veterans and King Tier receive one free \$10 entry. Some of the promotional rules: Must be a Players' Club member; membership is 100-percent free. Must be 21 or older to participate.

Casino team welcomes new general manager

Shawn McDaniels started as general manager at Indian Head Casino about a month ago. He comes to the tribes from the Roseburg area, where he had worked as general manager at the Seven Feathers Casino Resort of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians. Mr. McDaniels was with Seven Feathers for nine years.

In fact, his tribal and other gaming management and development experience is extensive, going back more than 30 years.

Some years ago, just starting out, he was studying in the field of marine biology when he took a position at Harrah's Casino in Lake Tahoe. It turned out to be



Shawn McDaniels

a good fit: He was made a Harrah's 'presidential candidate,' meaning over time he would work at all of the jobs at the casino, getting to know the many aspects of each position.

When tribal gaming took off in Oregon, Mr. McDaniels moved north, helping design and open Spirit Mountain Casino, and then the Three Rivers Casino at Florence. Besides Oregon tribes, Mr. McDaniels helped develop two casinos on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The Indian Head Casino board of directors earlier this year was looking for a new casino general manager. The board reviewed close to 100 qualified candidates, finding McDaniels' skills, insights and strategies to be outstanding.

Indian Head Casino, like others everywhere, was badly impacted by the pandemic. The work now is challenging, getting back to the vi-

brant and profitable enterprise of before.

Yet the progress is already noticeable. The Cottonwood Restaurant, for instance, is just starting to reopen, featuring the buffet table.

At full operation, Indian Head and the Plateau Travel Plaza together would have about 250 employees. At present the number is at about 150. The two years of pandemic shutdowns and restrictions took a toll on the workforce, and an effort now is to gain this back.

Mr. McDaniels, who moved here a month ago with his wife Cindy of 30 years, will be overseeing the renewal and rejuvenation of the tribes' gaming enterprise.

— Dave McMechan

At St. Charles Madras ~

Here's to the cooks

Two of the outstanding cooks at the St. Charles-Madras Hospital Juniper Ridge Café are Maraya Culpus and Juanita Kalama White Elk. As it turns out, their mothers—Gina Walker and Greta White Elk—are long-time friends. Juanita and Maraya learned this after getting to know each other as Madras hospital cooks.

Maraya joined the café staff—she and Juanita also serve as dietician aids and cashiers—five or six years ago. At that time, Maraya worked as a server at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. As it was becoming clear the resort was going to close, she found the cook position with the hospital kitchen.

Juanita joined the hospital staff about 14 months ago. Before, she was a cook at the



Maraya (right), Juanita with Juanita's granddaughter Catalana.

Warm Springs Academy. She had been with the Academy for several years working, for instance, during the covid school closures, when the cooks would prepare the student meals and help deliver them. Juanita has five grandkids, some attending the Academy.

Maraya is from Warm Springs, where she grew up with brother

Davey, and parents Vincent Culpus and Gina Walker.

Juanita, who is Oglala Sioux, is originally from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She grew up in Warm Springs, and now lives in Madras. Her parents are Ross Kalama Sr. and Greta White Elk.

This month Juanita and Maraya will be making the Indian tacos and

other good items for the Native American Market at the Madras-St. Charles Hospital. The market will be from 11 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15. Tribal members will have a discount during the market, in recognition of Native American Heritage Month.

St. Charles' approach to health care overall includes cultural inclusion. At the Madras hospital, for instance, you see this on display with the wall art and at the Healing Garden, featuring works by Lillian Pitt, and the water feature with a sculpture of three salmon.

The goal for the hospital staff and providers is to mirror the demographics of the service area, and for St. Charles-Madras that would be about a third Native American, a third Latino and a third White.

Maraya and Juanita will help celebrate the diversity at the upcoming Native American Market, November 15.

— Dave McMechan

Health, funding tour with IHS leadership

The Indian Health Service is a major funding source for health-related infrastructure improvements on the Warm Springs Reservation. This summer, as a recent example, IHS committed \$25 million in infrastructure money for the tribes, as part of the bi-partisan Infrastructure Law of 2021.

Much of this money is for necessary water system improvements, and for the Dry Creek landfill, both clearly community health projects. Last week, a team of top national and regional IHS officials visited the reservation, meeting with Tribal Council, and touring the water treatment plant.

IHS director Roselyn Tso was on hand for the Council meeting and tour. "This was a very productive day," director Tso said.

The Council meeting and tour with tribal Utilities, she said, clarified the pressing need



Utilities general manager Chico Holliday (second from left), IHS director Roselyn Tso (second from right) and the leadership team tour the Dry Creek water treatment facility, slated for improvements.

for action on the water infrastructure.

"And I had a great visit with the dedicated team at the IHS Warm

Springs Health and Wellness Center."

She expressed her gratitude for their dedication, and presented spe-

cially minted IHS Covid-19 Pandemic Response Coins to the Warm Springs IHS clinic team.

Please see IHS on 2



Where Winners Play!

\$500 VETERANS DAY SLOT TOURNAMENT

\$10 UNLIMITED BUY-INS

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

Friday, Nov. 11th, 3PM. See Players' Club for details.

