

The musical 'Bear Grease' coming in December

by Chris Watson, director
W.S. Community Action Team

The Warm Springs Community Action Team is co-hosting the musical *Bear Grease*, in partnership with event organizer Colleta Macy. The performance happens on Tuesday, December 20 at the Madras Performing Arts Center.

With an all-Indigenous cast, many of the Enoch Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada, *Bear Grease* combines hip-hop, parody, improv, and freestyle in an Indigenized musical-theatre production modeled on the 1978 movie *Grease*.

While modeled on *Grease*, the cast of *Bear Grease* offers an indigenous twist on the classic musical about good girl Sandy and bad boy Danny.

Hip-hop duo Lightning Cloud—Crystle Lightning and MC RedCloud—are the creators, writers and directors of this Treaty 6 Indigenous twist on the classic musical.

"Representation matters," RedCloud says. "*Grease* is a classic, but during the '50s and '60s, we weren't able to run around the streets like Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. We were getting shuffled off into some nonsense



The cast of the all-Indigenous show *Bear Grease*, coming to the Madras Performing Arts Center, December 20.

Courtesy WSCAT

boarding school."

The organizer of the event, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs tribal member Colleta Macy, has led the effort to bring the musical to Warm Springs. This included raising grant funds

through the Roundhouse Foundation, reaching out to the cast and crew of *Bear Grease*, reserving the Performing Arts Center, and handling the marketing of the event.

"*Bear Grease* is a huge event in

Indian Country," Ms. Macy said, "and having it come to our community is an amazing honor.

"This will be a great evening of outstanding performances, indigenous humor, and memorable moments."

Colleta adds, "It's a great show for the whole family, and to see a show like this—with people who look like you—is an empowering feeling. Come out dressed for the occasion... I'm definitely going in my 50's era attire!"

The Warm Springs Community Action Team hopes to fill all of the nearly 600 seats at the Madras Performing Arts Center, and is providing complimentary tickets to 10 members of each of Oregon's eight other tribes.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund projects and events for local artists in Warm Springs.

The best way to purchase tickets is via Eventbrite at: www.eventbrite.com/e/bear-grease-the-musical-tickets-439899931537

For those of you without online access, please contact Leah Guliasi at the Community Action Team, 543-553-3148. Or email: leah@wscat.org

Federal act spurs tribes to seek solar partners

Tribes are now eager to partner with 'microgrid' and solar developers since enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act is 2022. The law allows tribal organizations to receive direct payments for the tax credits provided under the act, said tribal representatives at the Oregon Solar and Storage Conference, held in Portland last month.

Business and tribal officials—including Cathy Ehli, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises—met for the conference discussion about how the IRA has opened up opportunities for developers to partner with tribes.

"Early engagement in these projects should be developed with tribes, preferably with a contact that works for the tribe, a trusted messenger," Ms. Ehli said. "Be open-minded about how you can navigate working with tribes," she added.

Summaries of Tribal Council

The following is a summary of the Tribal Council proceeding from October.

October 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith Sr. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, James 'Jim' Manion, Vice Chairman Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Carlos Calica, Chief Joseph Moses, Rosa Graybael, Chief Delvis Heath. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Secretary-Treasurer update with Robert Brunoe. November agenda.

Draft resolutions with the S-T.

Interim Water Control Board: Motion by Jim approving Resolution No. 12,983 appointing the following persons as "interim" Water Control Board members: Brad Houslet, Austin Smith Jr., and Ryan Smith, until Tribal Council appoints Board members. Second by Joe; Question; Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Indian Head Casino lease:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 12,984 that the proposed Business Lease No. 4471, is hereby approved for a ten year term beginning February 1, 2021 and to end of January 2031; and that the negotiated rental amounts set out above are hereby approved, with the Tribes waiving all compensation for the use of Tribally owned real estate interests.

That the Secretary-Treasurer/

CEO of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, is hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to grant the lease. Question; Jim/yes, Joe/abstain, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/1, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Wayne Miller's home site request: Tabled until Probate is finalized.

2023 Fishing Regulations: Tabled until the Fish and Wildlife Committee can review and make a recommendation on fees.

Memorandum of Agreement for Public Law 86-121, Project PO-22-N46:

Motion by Jim adopting Resolution No. 12,985, by the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council hereby:

1.) Approves MOA PO-22-N46 attached hereto as Exhibit A;

2.) Designates each of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer/CEO as an authorized representative or their designees with authority to execute, enter and perform the MOA PO-22-N46 and to take such further additional action as the Authorized Representative determines to be necessary or appropriate to complete the Project in accordance with MOA PO-22-N46;

3.) Approves the transfer of the EPA Tribal Set-Aside Program grant funds to the IHS (Indian Health Service) for use as set forth in the MOA PO-22-N46; By the Tribal Council that the Tribal Council hereby formally requests that the IHS and

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) coordinate with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Secretary-Treasurer/CEO to secure funding for ongoing repairs or emergency operations at the existing Dry Creek Water Treatment Plant necessary to ensure the production of safe drinking water for the community until the Project is completed. Second by Captain; Question; Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

State legislative update call.

Enrollments with Lucille Suppah-Sampson:

Motion by Carlos adopting Resolution No. 12,986, enrolling seven individuals. Second by Jay; Question; Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Tribal Council November agenda with the S-T:

Motion by Captain approving Tribal Council's November agenda. Second by Jay; Question; Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Response to American Cruise Lines and 2022-2025 Fish Accord Extension-Brent Hall, Tribal Attorney:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 12,987, by the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to the Tribal Constitution and bylaws of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reser-

vation of Oregon, Article V, Section 1 approves the 2022 Amendment to the Fish Accord and authorizes the Tribe's Chairman to sign the 2022 Amendment to the Fish Accord. Second by Jay; Question; Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Indian Health Service update with Michele Miller.

Motion by Jay to adjourn at 5 p.m.

October 18

The meeting was called to or-

der by Chairman Jonathan Smith Sr. Roll call: Vice Chairman Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Lincoln Jay Suppah, James 'Jim' Manion, Alvis Smith III, Rosa Graybael, Carlos Calica, Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Tribal Employment Rights Office Commission update with Mona Cochran and Shirley Allen.

Meet and Greet with Roselyn Tso, Indian Health Service Director.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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