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Holiday events coming up in December

December in Warm Springs is always a great time for family holiday gatherings and fun; and this December—the first since 2019 that covid is not an overriding threat—will see holiday events every week during the month.

Firstly, Warm Springs Recreation presents the Santasquatch Christmas Tree Lighting this Thursday evening, December 1 at 6 p.m. at the Community Wellness Center. Contact Recreation for information at 541-553-3243.

December to Remember

This Friday and Saturday, December 2-3, will see the *December to Remember Round Dance* event at the Warm Springs Academy.

There will be invited drums, Young Spirit and Frog Lake First Nation; and invited back-up Bear Sisters and Paul Band First Nation; and special guest Suite 1491. Some other upcoming featured programs at December to Remember:

At the Academy on Friday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m. will be the Pipe Ceremony, Feast and Round Dance, followed with Specials plus: Women of the West, King of the Cowboys and Best Beaded Hat Band.

And Saturday, December 3: Spaghetti feed at 6 p.m., Round Dance to follow. Specials, Best Ribbon Skirt, Best Ribbon Shirt, and Best Lele. This is a drug and alcohol free event. There will be 50/50 raffles, a giveaway and concessions. Pictures with Santa, Saturday 6 to 9 p.m.; singers and first six back-up will receive honorarium. No outside vendors or raffles.

Car Lights Parade

Recreation presents the colorful Car Lights Parade on Wednesday evening, December 14. Parade line-up is at 4 p.m. by the former elementary school building. Judging is at 5 and the parade starts at 6.

There will be prizes for community entries, and tribal organization entries—First-, Second- and Third-Place in both categories.

The theme this year is the *Santasquatch Is Coming to Town*. For information call 541-553-3243.

NDN Night Out

Recreation will host the Christmas NDN Night Out on Monday evening, December 19 at the Community Center.

Bring your favorite dish for everyone to enjoy for the 5:15 p.m. potluck. Social Dance and Drummers Jam starts at 6. Bring your hand drum.

The Night Out is open to all dancers for exhibitions, and all drum groups. Master of Ceremony is Raymond 'Captain' Moody.

There will be family fun games, and a raffle for prizes (need to be present to win). For more information contact Recreation at 541-553-3243.

Tribal members to lead Gorge Commission

Elected Chair and Vice Chair in the historic Commission vote

Carina Miller, of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, will lead the Columbia River Gorge Commission beginning January 1, 2023. The commission in November elected Ms. Miller to serve as chair during the coming term.

This is historic: Ms. Miller will be the first member of a federally recognized tribe to lead the agency. Joining Carina in executive leadership will be Pah-tu Pitt, also of the Confederated Tribes: Ms. Pitt will be serving for a second year in the position of Gorge Commission vice-chair.

"It has been a privilege to work together on a commission with members and staff committed to honoring all people who have lived in the Gorge," Ms. Miller says.

"The Commission has undertaken heavy work to measure outcomes of the Management Plan, and to identify ways to review and update it more efficiently.

"As a bi-state commission, we will face unique and compli-



Incoming Gorge Commission chairwoman Carina Miller



Incoming Gorge Commission vice chairwoman Pah-tu-Pitt

cated issues in the upcoming year," Carina said.

"The fact that Commissioner Pitt and I were elected as officers, representing not only the commission but also our tribes, is a powerful moment in my life. *Kwalanawashayksh ayayat Neb'wana*—Thankful for the beautiful Columbia River."

Carina has a Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies from the University of Oregon. She is a former Tribal Councilwoman; co-chair of the energy committee for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and chair of the Native American caucus for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Pah-tu Pitt holds Environmental graduate and undergraduate degrees. She believes in climate

resiliency efforts, sustainable economic development, and culturally relevant education opportunities.

Ms. Pitt has extensive background and experience in Environmental Science, small business, policy, management and community engagement. Her work experiences include nonprofit, governmental, and business sectors.

The National Scenic Area

Carina was originally appointed to the commission in 2019 by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

Pah-tu joined the Commission in 2021 as an appointee of Washington Governor Jay Inslee.

The two governors have appointed tribal representatives to the Gorge Commission for many

years. The representation of tribal, federal, state and county perspectives on the commission provides the unique regional governance structure.

The bi-state land-use Gorge Commission and staff implement the National Scenic Area Act and corresponding Management Plan throughout the Gorge.

Comprised of 13 members, three are appointed by the Oregon governor, three by the Washington governor; and one representative is appointed by each of the six counties in the National Scenic Area. And the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture appoints one non-voting member.

Represented in Oregon are Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco counties; and Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties in Washington.

The Forest Supervisor from the USDA Forest Service National Scenic Area Office serves on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The National Scenic Act requires the commission to consult with the four Columbia River treaty tribes. Through the consultation, the commission works closely with the tribes, and relies on the expertise of their staffs.

See GORGE COMMISSION on 2

From Warm Springs to the Hall of Fame ballot

Playing a sport can bring great and positive changes to a person's life. A student can earn a scholarship and have a great time. And the physical exercise is good for everyone who plays.

Sports can be life-changing in profound ways. "It helped me with sobriety. I was 28 and I started focusing on my health, playing baseball and basketball," said Andy Leonard, now the tribes' Adolescent After Care Specialist with Warm Springs Prevention. At the time, "Sports took everything off my shoulders, as to alcohol and drugs, and helped make me a better role model for kids."

Now almost 59, Andy has played baseball in the National Adult Baseball Association for



Varsity top row: Coach Andy Leonard, Keller Christensen, Jacoby Ellsbury, Jake Wise, Colter Barnes, Jake Jaca, Jeff Barnes, Jesse Armstrong, Coach Bruce Reece; bottom row: Kyle Devine, Eric Ronning, Justin Castro, Sam Candland, Jefferson Greene, Cameron Stovall, Mike Meaves.

(Photo from the Madras High School White Buffalos baseball team, coached by Andy Leonard and starring Jacoby Ellsbury.)

many years. This fall his over-58 team—he also plays in the over-48 division—won the NABA World Services in Las Vegas. The over-48 team made it to the championship game. Andy won Most Valuable Player and Most Outstanding

Player awards, adding to his many awards from over the years. The team is the Portland Red Sox of the Adult Baseball Association.

Some years before this, in the 1980s, Andy was coaching youth baseball players in Warm Springs,

including a Jacoby. Later, in the 1990s and early 2000s, Mr. Leonard was the baseball coach at Madras High School. On the team also was Jacoby Ellsbury, who would go on to Oregon State on a baseball scholarship before joining the Boston Red Sox, helping the team win two World Series.

Here is another example of how far playing sports can take a person: The Baseball Writers' Association of America last week added Ellsbury's name to the ballot of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Jacoby grew up in Warm Springs, and is a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. His future greatness at sports was evident from the time he was very young, Andy remembers.

— Dave McMechan

All Native cast to perform *Bear Grease* at MHS

A performance of the musical *Bear Grease* is coming up on Tuesday, December 20 at the Madras Performing Arts Center. Colleta Macy partnered with the Warm Springs Community Team to bring the performance to the high school.

The cast members provide an indigenous twist on the classic musical. 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. Many of the all-Indigenous cast members of *Bear Grease* are from the Enoch Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada. The show, modeled on the 1978 movie *Grease*, combines hip-hop, parody, improv and freestyle productions.

Coletta and the Community Action Team did the fundraising to make the show available locally.

The Roundhouse Foundation contributed; and Colleta reached out to the cast and crew, and re-

served time at the Performing Arts Center.

"This will be a great evening of outstanding performances, indigenous humor, and memorable moments," Colleta has said. "*Bear Grease* is a huge event in Indian Country. Having it come to our community is an amazing honor.

"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."

She and the Community Action Team hope to fill all of the

nearly 600 seats at the Madras Performing Arts Center.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund projects and events for the 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 without online access, please contact Leah Guliasi at the Community Action Team, 543-553-3148. Or email: leah@wscat.org



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*Total cash & prizes in December. See Players' Club for details.

