

Letters to the editor

Reservation wildlife talk

This time next month, there will be a chance to learn more about the reservation wildlands and wildlife at a presentation *Nature Nights* at the Tower Theatre in Bend.

Austin L. Smith Jr., general manager of the tribes' Branch of Natural Resources, will give the presentation, to be called *Wild Horses, Wolves and Other Wildlife of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation*.

The presentation will be the evening of March 22 at the theater.

As presentation host the Deschutes Land Trust says:

The discussion will be a chance learn more about the animals, trees, fish and other aspects of the natural environment, as they adapt to climate change, wildfire risk, and the shift of predators within their habitats.

The presentation is free and tickets are available one month prior to the event.

IHS covid vaccine update

The Indian Health Service has updated its coronavirus data, showing IHS Covid-19 vaccination distribution and administration as of mid February 12, 2023.

According to the data, the IHS has distributed 4,133,750 covid vaccine doses across 11 areas of Indian Country.

Of that amount,

2,373,711 have been administered, representing 57.4 percent of the total.

The Portland District distributed 217,420 doses, of which 114,464 have been administered.

Largest Native tourney at 20

The Native American Basketball Invitational has announced that the Ak-Chin Indian Community will be the presenting sponsor of the annual tournament. The tournament was founded in 2003 and is celebrating its Twentieth Anniversary in July.

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is located in the Santa Cruz Valley of Southern Arizona. The community has an enrollment of more than 1,100 tribal members and a land base of just over 22,000 acres.

The Native American Basketball Invitational is North America's largest all-Native American basketball tournament, representing over 150 tribal nations. This year, a record-breaking 172 teams applied to participate in the tournament.

The tournament is scheduled to take place July 17-23 in Phoenix, and will feature inspiring educational components presented by the Phoenix Indian Center, including the Invitational College and Career Fair, and Educational Youth Summit.

The championship games will be played at the Footprint Center, home of the Phoenix Suns and Mercury. Two graduating seniors will stand on the center court

during halftime to receive \$10,000 in college scholarships.

To Native filmmakers

Confluence is pleased to announce the Confluence Filmmaker Fellows program in partnership with Oregon Film.

Three Indigenous video artists will receive cash prizes to support a film project they are developing. One award for \$5,000, and two will be for \$2,500. Four other Emerging Indigenous Filmmakers will receive full camera kits so that they can take their craft to the next level.

Eligible projects would align broadly to Confluence's mission to connect people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of our region through Indigenous voices.

Some ideas for possible themes include Growth, Healing, and Community.

The goal is to support Indigenous filmmakers achieve their visions. This project is supported by a grant provided by the Creative Opportunity Program and Oregon Film. See the websites: OregonFilm.org confluenceproject.org

A screening for all projects will be held in June 2024. Location to be determined.

Give Kids a Smile Day

The Warm Springs Dental Department at the IHS clinic is offering the 'Give Kids a Smile Day' for youth ages 1-18. The dental services include exams and x-rays, fluoride varnish and more. Give Kids a Smile Day will be from 8 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, February 24. No appointments are needed (on this one and only day).

Please check in with patient registration then go to the Dental window. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dental at 541-553-2462. Hope to see you there! Warm Springs Dental Department.

If you're breathing, you're succeeding

by Dr. Shilo Shaw Tippet for KWSO

This is the fourth and concluding article in a series on coping with grief and loss.

Life can throw us curve balls that we weren't expecting, which leaves us feeling overwhelmed, confused, and anxious.

It is very easy to get down on ourselves for the things we haven't accomplished yet, for the relationships we have lost, for the fearful things that lie ahead. But the truth is, all we have is the present moment, and the anchor to that is our breath.

While we breathe all the time, breathing to help anxiety and stress is different. The goal is to slow down the stress process and bring us back to the present moment.

Great showing at Ft. Hall tourney



Photo courtesy Jaycelene Brisbois.

The Warm Springs team that played recently at the Ft. Hall, Idaho basketball tournament, in the 30 and over men's division, returned home having taken second place overall. Players on the Warm Springs team are Ray Torres, Davis Sohapp Jr., Ellery Leclair and Vance Brisbois. They played hard, proudly representing Warm Springs.

The team and families would like to thank Native Aspirations for their donation. They won a trophy, and are giving it to Health and Human Services, for the help in attending the tournament.

Move Your Mountain Revival

The Door Christian Fellowship Church is hosting Revival Services on Friday through Sunday, March 3-5 at the church, 520 Fifth Street, Madras. The times will be at 6:30 p.m. each evening; and on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The Revival is 'Move Your Mountains,' focusing on is-

ues of unemployment, depression, bitterness and sickness, with Pastor Daniel Nego. For information call 541-419-7521. All families are welcome, and a nursery is provided.

"Truly, I tell you, If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20.

Seniors meals

The Warm Springs Senior Wellness Center is now open and serving sit down meals in the dining room on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. Senior exercise classes are Monday and Thursday starting at 10:45 a.m. with a light lunch.

Spring clean-up soon at the museum

The Museum at Warm Springs Spring Clean-Up is coming up in March. This free, fun and public event is in honor of the museum's Thirtieth Anniversary, celebrated throughout 2023.

Clean-up participants should bring their own rakes. Garbage bags, water and snacks will be provided. A reception for participants will follow. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP by Friday, March 10 to museum operations manager Sunmiet Maben: officemanager@museumatwarmsprings.org

Clean-up day will be the afternoon of Saturday, March 18.



Wintertime picture of the Museum at Warm Springs.

Becoming a member

There are several levels of annual museum membership, beginning at \$25 for elders and students.

All members receive many benefits: Free admission for one year, a 10-percent discount at the museum Gift Shop; and special invitations to exhibits and programs. Join at:

museumatwarmsprings.com

And click 'Join' to see membership levels and online payment information. Or send a check to: The Museum at Warm Springs, P.O. Box 909, Warm Springs, OR 97761 (Attn: Membership). Membership inquiries can be directed to museum consultant Bill Flood at: bill@billflood.org

The U.S. is finally inviting tribes to help manage land

Last April, in a farm field in eastern Virginia, Ann Richardson gathered with a few hundred people for a celebration. It wasn't a party, though. Several people were crying. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland was there. She was crying, too.

Richardson is the chief of the Rappahannock Tribe, and on that afternoon, her tribe took back more than 460 acres of ancestral land along the river that shares her tribe's name. Last month, her tribe reclaimed another 960 acres of its homeland, too.

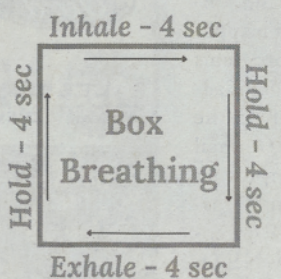
It took 350 years. It took survival, after her tribe was forced off of its homeland by English settlers in the 1600s, virtually erased by white supremacists in the 1900s and endured centuries of persecution sanctioned by

the U.S. government.

It also took a new kind of partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as the administration forges ahead with what it hopes will spur a seismic shift in the way the government approaches managing public lands: inviting tribes to be co-stewards of the land their ancestors were forcibly or illegally removed from by the government.

Since this administration took office, Haaland and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack have signed off on nearly two dozen co-stewardship agreements with tribes.

There are another 60 co-stewardship agreements in various stages of review involving 45 tribes. Haaland and Vilsack launched this effort in November 2021.



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