

Important change to health care coverage

The following is an important update from the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center:

The Oregon Health Plan on April 1 will be complying with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. This law includes various Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program provisions, including significant changes to the continuous enrollment condition.

The continuous enrollment condition will end on March 31 of this year, and states must return to normal eligibility and enrollment operations.

Some states will be able to terminate Medicaid enrollment for individuals no longer eligible beginning April 1.

The state of Oregon announced they are committed to Maintaining Coverage. The state will be reevaluating recipient's Medicaid eligibility and renewal information will be sent

out to all currently on the Oregon Health Plan.

Question: To avoid interruptions in benefits, what actions should American Indians and Alaskan natives take?

Answer: American Indians and Alaska Natives with Medicaid or CHIP—Children's Health Insurance Plan—coverage should:

1. Update their contact information with their State Medicaid or CHIP program; and
2. Look out for a letter from their state about completing a renewal form.

Question: Who can help you with your application?

Answer: The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has a Contact Representative Team. This team consists of:

Victoria Katchia, Paula Miller, Veronica Baez from the IHS Business Office; and Rhonda Green from the CTWS Purchased and Referred Care program.

Team members are certified Community Partners with the Oregon Health Authority and:

- Are authorized to assist you in completing your application.
- Will confirm your information and have you sign an authorization to allow them to process an application on your behalf.

If you have questions please bring in any paperwork you may have received from the Oregon Health Plan to the Warm Springs Clinic and seek out a contact representative to discuss your options.

You may also call the clinic at 541-553-1196 and ask to speak with a contact representative.

You may obtain more information at the following website www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/medicaid-unwinding/

Tribal smelt fishing open on Cowlitz, Sandy

The tribes' Branch of Natural Resources smelt surveyor on the Cowlitz River has found that smelt are available as of mid February, and tribal Fisheries is hoping the run will continue to build. Updates will be coming soon from Fisheries.

Fishers should make plans to head up to the river any time now. Smelt can be eaten fresh or frozen, smoked or dried to preserve for the coming months.

Please work with our surveyor to record your catch, or call Mark Manion at 541-460-0272 to report within 24 hours.

Recently, Tribal Council approved the smelt regulations for the Cowlitz and Sandy rivers.

Smelt may be harvested seven days per week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gear is limited to dip nets, and the tribal allocation is 2,500 pounds of smelt for each



river.

The Branch of Natural Resources Fisheries Department is responsible for monitoring the fishery and there will be surveyors on site.

Please let them check your catch and don't forget to have your enrollment cards on your person while fishing.

If you do not run into one of our surveyors please report your catch to the harvest manager at 541-460-0272 within 24 hours. Remember this is a subsistence fishery and the fish may not be sold.

First spring chinook crosses Willamette Falls

The spring chinook of the year crossed Willamette Falls on Valentine's Day. The adult hatchery fish joined one other 'first' salmon recently across Bonneville Dam.

Oregon and Washington biologists are meeting in Ridgefield this week to decide non-tribal sport fishing seasons.

Decisions will be based on forecasts of nearly 200,000 upriver Co-

lumbia springers and more than 70,000 to the Willamette and Clackamas rivers.

A season is already open on the Willamette River and Multnomah Channel.

Sea lions still a threat to Columbia River salmon

Tribal and state agencies for decades now have made various attempts to control salmon depredation by Stellar and California sea lions in the upper Columbia River.

Yet fisheries biologists still consider sea lions, or pinnipeds, a threat to at-risk salmon populations in the Columbia.

A recent statistic: Between August 2021 and May 2022, more than 7,000 fish in the Bonneville Dam tailrace were killed by Columbia River sea lions. This number comes from the Portland U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2022 predation report.

And the number is significant, accounting for about 12.4 percent of the salmon run during the agency's observation period.

For several years, tribes and state agencies tried mostly non-lethal methods to control the predation.

These methods included construction of exclusion gates to keep sea lions out of the fishways; the use of hazing like pyrotechnics and rubber buckshot; and even physical removal and relocation of some of the animals.

Each of the methods resulted in only temporary mitigation. Ac-



Sea lion salmon predation at the Columbia River.

tual euthanization was rare, as sea lions are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

In August 2020, under an amendment to the law, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a permit to the six tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and three Northwest states to more readily and lethally remove sea lions in the Columbia River basin. The new standard created 'safe zones' for fish that are protected under the Endangered Species Act, and at the mouths of tributaries where the fish are going to spawn.

And this approach has helped, as the 2020 fish run showed improvement, especially at the area of Willamette Falls, where the fish were nearly extinct in 2017.

Yet the sea lions remain a problem, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assessment indicates.

Some opposition to pipeline proposal

Advocates and elected officials spoke at a meeting Monday night on the expansion of a natural gas pipeline that cuts through Central Oregon. One of the opponents who spoke was U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley.

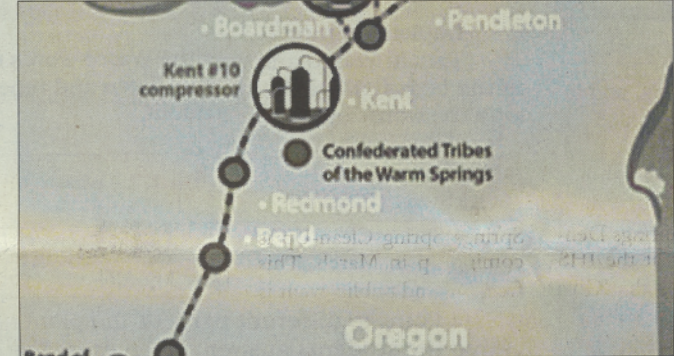
The pipeline, called the Gas Transmission Northwest, is 61 years old and runs from California to British Columbia.

The non-profit group 350 Deschutes engages in climate advocacy and climate education. The group has concerns over plans to expand the GTN XPress gas pipeline.

"This would totally derail Oregon's efforts to regulate emissions and to address climate change," said 350Deschutes executive director Diane Hokiak. "As far as we can tell, we think that it comes within two miles of the downtown area and Bend, and we have identified that it actually runs through two proposed subdivisions on the east side."

"Ultimately, the decision is up to FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission," said Satya Austin-Opper with 350Deschutes.

"So, we want to make our



Map of pipeline project, showing proximity to the reservation.

voices heard because they haven't really included a lot of public comment in this process so far, we don't know when they're going to make a decision on it, but it could be as early as next month."

Senator Merkley said, "This is an unnecessary and an unwanted project. It does the opposite of what we're trying to achieve in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest for our climate objectives to contribute to the solutions, not to make the problem worse."

Merkley expressed concerns over global climate change partnerships over this potential expansion and the potential environmental impact it may have.

"This flew under the radar a bit because instead of a new pipeline, it's doubling," Sen. Merkley said.

"The pressure in the existing pipeline doesn't matter, equivalent to doubling the capacity of the pipeline, doubling the damage. And we have to double down in our fight against."

Gas Transmission Northwest or GTN says they offer families and businesses in our area a safe and reliable source of fuel for things like cooking and utilities. They've also set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, including to achieve zero emissions from operations by 2050.

White Buffalos boys, girls finish regular season

In Tri Valley League play on Monday night in Madras, the Crook County Cowboys beat the White Buffalo boys varsity team 80-66, finishing out the regular season.

Coach Nick Brown says the Buffs will likely get a play-in game opportunity.

"We should have a good shot at a play-in," Coach Brown said.

"Everything will get confirmed when the rankings freeze Tuesday night. It's up in the air, as to if we will be able to host a play-in game," Brown said.

"It depends on if Estacada or Molalla move ahead of us in the rankings."

Games being played Tuesday of this week (after print time for this publication) that could impact the White Buffalo play in play include:

The Dalles vs. Molalla, plus Gladstone vs. Estacada.

Crook County boys are in first place in the Tri-Valley League with Gladstone in sec-



ond.

Madras is in third place with Estacada right behind them.

The Madras girls varsity won Monday night in Prineville, finishing out the regular season with a win over Crook County 45-35.

More will be known about the post season after state rankings were set on Tuesday night of this week.

The Lady White Buffalo are in first place in the Tri Valley League ahead of Gladstone and Crook County.

Visit the website for more information, scores, schedules and playoff brackets: osaa.org

In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs: Probate

PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Quinten J. Hoptowit, W.S., U/A Deceased Probate Estate #2021-PR22. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Quinten J. Hoptowit, who at the time of his death, last known residence was Rockaway Beach, OR 97136, died on the 17th day of April, 2021, and that the above entitled Court has appointed Valerie Squiempfen, as Public Administrator.

In the Matter of the Estate of Patricia R. Tanewasha, W.S., U/A Deceased Probate Estate #2022-PR42. TO: Lester Tanewasha Jr., Jeannette Tanewasha, and Nellie Tanewasha:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a probate hearing is

scheduled for May 11, 2023 at 11am. This hearing will be held by telephone in a virtual courtroom. Dial: 443-499-6145 PIN: 860 871 141#

In the Matter of the Estate of Patricia R. Tanewasha, W.S., U/A Deceased Probate Estate #2022-PR42. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Patricia R. Tanewasha, who at the time of his/her death, last known residence was 1262 Kot Num Rd, Warm Springs, OR. 97761, died on the 25TH day of June, 2022, and that the above entitled Court has appointed Valerie Squiempfen, as Public Administrator.

In the Matter of the Estate of Lucy Ann Smith W.S., U/A Deceased Probate Estate #2021-

PR49. TO: Laura Sahme, Milton Sahme Jr., Carlos Miller-Smith: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a probate hearing is scheduled for: **MAY 11, 2023 at 2pm.** This hearing will be held by telephone in a virtual courtroom. Dial: 315-968-2367 PIN: 248 747 026#

In the Matter of the Estate of Lucy Ann Smith, W.S., U/A Deceased Probate Estate #2021-PR49. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lucy Ann Smith, who at the time of his/her death, last known residence was Warm Springs, OR 97761, died on the 13th day of September, 2021, and that the above entitled Court has appointed Valerie Squiempfen, as Public Administrator.

(Probate notices continue on 7)