



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

March 8, 2023 - Vol. 48, No. 5

Wiyak'ik'ila - Winter - Anm

PO Box 489  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS  
Postal Patron

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

## Tribes and Education featuring the Languages

*The 'Healing Through Our Languages' conference is March 26-29 at the OSU-Cascades campus.*

A young student tends to drop out more often when the student has little or no connection to the school and the classroom. On the other hand, the student will most likely stay in school when he or she feels a familiar connection to the classroom. And most often, when a student stays in school and graduates, success is at hand.

Over time, the tribes have experienced this in both the positive and the negative sense. For decades there was a bad drop-out rate in the Jefferson County school district, including among Native American students. The good news is that this has changed in more recent years, with the dropout rate among tribal members improving by 14 percent.

Evidence suggests this has to do with the acceptance of an actual



The Language Teachers of Culture and Heritage with students at the Warm Springs Academy.

Native American curriculum, starting with the languages, the history and culture. Specifically, the drop-out rate—along with tardiness and absenteeism—began to improve

quite dramatically along the same timeline as the greater inclusion of the Language program of the Culture and Heritage Department and tribal Education.

"I think the kids feel more connected to the school, and the parents are more comfortable," said Valerie Switzler, Education general manager.

The Language classes help the students "know who they are and where they come from, and that it's okay to be an Indian," Ms. Switzler said.

The boarding school experience of the 19th- and 20th centuries is an example of the complete opposite: The Native languages, culture and spirituality were discouraged, and even punished.

The inclusive approach—including the languages, tribal history and culture—"helps give the students a connection to their home and community," Valerie says. So the student feels more comfortable at school, and for this reason is much less likely to consider dropping out.

The teachers of the Culture and Heritage Language program begin with students in pre-school at the Early Childhood Education Center, continue at the Warm Springs Academy, then at the high school, and now even at the college level.

See LANGUAGES on 5

## Community calendar

The Warm Springs **Easter Basket giveaway** will be on April 7, the Friday before Easter Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The giveaway, sponsored by Health and Human Services, will be a drive-by event by the Family Resource Center.

The date for the 2023 Warm Springs **Seniors Day** is set for all day on Friday, May 12. The Senior Day Planning Committee and guests are meeting next Monday, March 13 at the Senior Center. For more information, to contribute or volunteer, speak with Tribal Councilman Wilson Wewa Jr., Senior program director.

The Warm Springs **Farmers Market** is set to begin in June on the Campus.

**Regarding masking:** The state of Oregon on April 3 is lifting the masking requirement in any setting—within state jurisdiction—where health care is provided, including medical offices, dental offices and places that provide behavioral health services.

Some health care settings may decide to continue requiring masks even after the statewide requirement is lifted.

The Warm Springs Clinic is not subject to the state guideline, and instead relies on the Centers for Disease Control for its recommendation.

Hyllis Dauphinais, clinic chief executive officer, is in contact with the IHS Area office regarding the situation.

Mr. Hyllis and the Response Team were also scheduled to meet with Tribal Council this week to discuss any changes in the masking requirement in tribal medical service offices.

## Grand opening for new skatepark

The big day for the Warm Springs Skatepark—the Grand Opening—is coming up on Wednesday, March 29. This will be the celebration of a project that began a little over two years ago.

The skatepark project started through one of those good coincidences that happen now and then. In the winter of 2021, the development team with Tactics skateboards, a company with shops in Portland and around Oregon, wanted to build a new park in Central Oregon.

Two members of the Tactics skate team were Nacho Ponce of Madras, and Daquan Cassaway of Warm Springs. They pointed out to Tactics that Madras already has a nice skatepark, and Nacho and Daquan suggested a good place to build a new one would be Warm Springs.

The Tactics project manager

asked Nacho for a contact person in Warm Springs. By chance, Nacho is friends with Malia Collins and Marcel Allen, who also are skateboarders. Malia is the daughter of Michael Collins, director Warm Springs Managed Care.

So Mike became the initial contact person, and has since worked with Tactics and The Skateboard Project on fundraising, planning and building of the new skatepark at Elmer Quinn Park.

"When I first started meeting with Tactics, the idea was to repair the previous skate ramps and clean up around the area. It was going to be a small project," Mike says.

Tactics brought in The Skate Park Project, established in 2002, formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation, dedicated to building skate parks and promoting the sport.

See SKATEPARK on 6

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS 1855**

**WARM SPRINGS SKATEPARK GRAND OPENING MARCH 29, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

**BLESSING CEREMONY • GUEST SPEAKERS RIBBON CUTTING • SKATEBOARDING DJ • FOOD • GIVEAWAYS • AND MORE!**

**GINEW THE SKATEPARK PROJECT 19th Feb 20 E.J.M. FOUNDATION TACTICS Ford Family Marie Lamfom JEFFERSON COUNTY OREGON CENTRAL OREGON**

## A message from the Pi-Ume-Sha Committee

The Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow and Parade Committee have set the 2023 powwow activities for June 23-25, Friday through Sunday. The powwow will be in the fields behind the Community Wellness Center.

This will be the first Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow since the summer of 2019, before the pandemic.

The Treaty Days Celebration commemorates the signing of the Treaty of 1855 between the Indians of Middle Oregon and the United States Government. The Treaty established the Warm Springs Reservation.

The Confederated Tribes first hosted Pi-Ume-Sha powwows in the 1960s, during the Vietnam War, when several tribal members were serving in the U.S. Armed Services overseas. Pi-Ume-Sha continues to be an appreciation event for tribal members who in the past served, or are now serving in the military.

Vendors interested in setting

up for Pi-Ume-Sha 2023 can call Louise Katchia at 541-460-0224 for a vendor contract to be mailed to you.

Queen candidates can contact Louise Katchia at 541-460-0224; or Sharon Katchia at 541-295-6046.

Dance Specials: For those sponsoring Dance Specials, the committee would like to put the Dance

Specials, sponsored by families and friends, on the Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days flyer and posters.

Please contact Sharon Katchia at 541-295-6046; Louise Katchia at 541-460-0224, or Ramona Baez at 541-460-0077. That is all for now, more to follow.

**The Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow and Parade Committee.**



# Coca-Cola Earn 'N Get Madness!

## Sundays, March 12th & 19th • 11AM - 7PM

### Earn 250 SAME DAY POINTS!

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761 Max of 3 per promo day. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. See Players' Club for details.

