

Letters to the editor

New grant funding available

Warm Springs Tribal Social Services and the Oregon Housing Community Service Department are announcing that grant funds are available for mortgage payments (up to three months), home repairs up to \$5,000; and utilities including electricity, phone, internet service and reconnection fees.

To apply for mortgage assistance payments, apply at the Tribal Credit office. Speak with Bucky Cochran or Lori Fuentes, 541-553-3201.

To apply for home repairs, or assistance paying on utilities, apply at the Tribal Social Services office. Talk with Jacqueline Minson, 541-553-4955.

Requirements for eligibility: Warm Springs tribal member. No financial limitations. Paid off home qualify. Short two-page application. Help with applications is available.

W.S. Red Cross recruiting

The Warm Springs Red Cross will have a community meeting to recruit new volunteers who would like to join the Warm Springs Red Cross.

The Red Cross will also be taking sign-ups for persons needing smoke detectors. And there will be discussion on preparing evacuation sheltering, should there be any wildfires in our area.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14 at the Family Resource Center. Lunch will be provided.

Thank you.

Rosemary 'Mushy' Alarcon, 541-777-2785 work and 541-527-9114 cell.

Winter tribal fishery

The Four Columbia River Tribes set the following fishery, and the Columbia River Compact concurred:

There is a commercial setline fishery for the present time through 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

The area is The Dalles pool only. Gear: Standard setline gear including no more than 100 single-point hooks per setline and a minimum hook size of 9/0.

Sanctuaries: Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear

Allowable sales: Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.

The Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery remains unchanged at this time.

Vaccines and boosters work and are safe. Get vaccinated and boosted to help protect you, your family, and your tribal community. One Community Health is the tribal health partner in the Columbia Gorge. Call them at 541-386-6380 to schedule your free vaccination or call your tribal clinic to get it before heading to the river.

If you have any fishing enforcement problems or need assistance or information, day, or night, contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Office, 4270 Westcliff Drive, Hood River. Phone 541-386-6363 or toll-free 800-487-FISH (3474). Show pride in your Tribe's treaty rights by carrying your tribal ID. Please consult your tribal Fisheries Department for additional details on tribal regulations. Please wear your life jackets for safety, and avoid overloading your boats. **The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.**

Shelter staff

I am writing to thank the Shelter staff for all the help and respect they show and give. They sure can put a good meal on and I really respect that. It makes me happy to get a meal and a smile. They know when a regular person misses a meal or two.

Hey, It's not one, it's all the crew. Keep up the good job, stay and warm, and thank you all.

Wendell E. Greene, Hu-lish-Qwat-knot.

Movin' Mountains

Warm Springs Community, the tribes, Indian Health Services and Jefferson County Public Health this month are hosting the 2023 Movin' Mountains Slim-down Challenge. This year Movin' Mountains features new incentives and activities. For participants, check your email for weekly updates. Or call 541-475-4456.

Birth

Montclair Win Petersen

Michael Win Petersen of Madras is proud to announce the birth of his son Montclair Win Petersen, born on February 20, 2023. Montclair joins sister

Elite Cheer great at State competition



Photos courtesy Martha Alvarez/Recreation

Congratulations to Caroline White (above left) and Juliet Warner, of Madras Elite Cheer, for their performances at the recent state cheerleading competition in Salem. Both girls, students at the Warm Springs Academy, took home awards.

Juliet Warner is a member of the team Rec Youth - Small, and Caroline is a member of the team Rec Juniors - Small. Both girls also hold state and national titles.

Mahara Rose, age 2.

Grandparent on the father's side is Pamela Murders Alire.

Lino Xisiu Smith

Juan Smith and Savannah Holliday of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Lino Xisiu Smith, born on March 1, 2023.

Lino joins brother Juan Jr., age 4.

Community notes...

Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services provides support and services to women, men, elders and children that are in abusive situation.

Everyone deserves to feel safe. If you or someone you know could use assistance, please call 541-553-2293 during the work day, or call Warm Springs Police Department dispatch at 541-553-1171 in the evening or on weekends and ask for a Victims of Crime Services advocate.

The High Desert Museum *Creations of Spirit* is



Courtesy photo

Shirley Allen opens the presentation by Aurolyn Stwyer, with an explanation of the Land Acknowledgement of the Paiute tribe in multiple states.

on display now until October. The exhibit features six Native Artists, including four from Warm Springs.

Artworks commissioned for this exhibition are being used in artist's communities, interactive, celebratory, various mediums, full of stories, and created for specific purposes and people. The High Desert Museum

is south of Bend on Highway 97. Learn more at: highdesertmuseum.org

Health Fair

The 2023 Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days will include the popular Health Fair. The Health Fair will be on June 21, the Wednesday before the powwow.

Wyden town hall at high school Performing Arts Center

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will host a town hall in Jefferson County this Friday, March 10. He will also be in Deschutes County the following day for a town hall.

The town hall in Jefferson County will be at 1 p.m. at the Madras High School Performing Arts Center, 412

S.E. Buff Street.

The Deschutes County event will be Saturday, March 11 at 11 a.m. at the Central Oregon Community College White Hall.

Wyden has already held 13 town halls so far throughout Oregon in 2023. He has held 1,040 town halls over-

all statewide in fulfillment of his pledge to hold at least one town hall each year in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

"These open-to-all town halls in central Oregon are all about public service and being available for anybody to ask me any question and share any idea," Sen. Wyden

said. "I'm very much looking forward to these upcoming town halls—and encourage Oregonians living in Jefferson and Deschutes counties to attend and participate in the 'Oregon Way' of working together on solutions to challenges facing our communities."

Talk with representative about health care coverage changes

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 re-evaluating 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/

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