

4-weekend Warm Springs Spay-a-Thon starting in June

The upcoming June and early July weekends in Warm Springs will see a rare and truly generous series of events. For the occasions, up to 20 veterinarians from around the region will be on hand, with veterinarian technicians and other volunteers.

The series veterinarian clinics are free to resident pet-owners, designed only to improve the lives of dogs and cats, and the pet lovers of the Warm Springs reservation. The event is called the Warm Springs Nation Spay-A-Thon.

Already for the June-early July clinics, more than 80 residents of the reservation have registered their pets.

Other good news is that there are still open spots for dogs and cats to receive top-level veterinarian spay-neuter services, and other health care attention.

A total of 400 spots will be available during the course of the Spay-a-Thon; so there is plenty of room for appointments, said Gina Clemmer, an organizer of the weekend clinics.

Ms. Clemmer is working with Fences for Fido to bring the Spay-a-Thon to the membership of the Confederated Tribes. As mentioned, there is no cost to the pet owner, though registration is re-



Gina Clemmer, founder and director, ClinichQ, at a recent spay-neuter clinic.

quired. More than anything, Gina says, this is labor of love for animals and the pet owners of the Warm Springs community.

Gina lives in Portland, and is the founder and director of the spay-neuter service website clinchq.com

The website offers a most easy-to-use and unique means for communities to access pet spay and neuter services, and other pet care. Services are available either at a stationary location or through her mobile clinic service.

"It's about making your life easier," as the [clinchq](http://clinchq.com) website motto says. "Changing the world with spay-neuter is what you do, managing that is what we do."

Gina's main work is [clinchq](http://clinchq.com), "While another real passion of mine is First Nations Veterinary," she says.

Originally from Oklahoma, Gina is a member of the Choctaw Nation, and also Muskogee Creek. In past years she and her vet-care partners have provided dog and cat spay- and neuter services for the Hopi and Navajo nations, for instance. The Warm Springs Spay-A-Thon will be the biggest project yet for First Nations Veterinary, she says.

First Nations Veterinary is a non-profit project, providing free veterinary care for Native American reservations. In conjunction with Fences for Fido, First Na-

tions Veterinary is co-coordinating the June-early July Warm Springs Spay-A-Thon.

Gina describes her work as an intersection of three things she loves: Native communities, technology, and animals, not necessarily in that order.

Regarding the animal aspect, Gina recalls a childhood experience that guided her to a pet-care and service career.

She remembers growing up with her aunt Bee in Glenpool, Oklahoma. "I was maybe 12 years old and I would always walk around our neighborhood," she says.

"By this one house I would pass by an Australian shepherd puppy that was always tied to a tree."

Each time Gina passed by the house, she would stop and play for a while with the puppy. Then after some time, "I noticed the dog was waiting for me, and we would celebrate joyously when we saw each other. And I would go home and cry about it to my aunt Bee."

One day, after talking it over with her cousin, young Gina somehow found the courage to take action: The next time she passed by the house, "I unhooked the dog and took it home. I was twelve, I thought I would go to prison. I took the dog home and told my aunt about it. I said I couldn't take seeing the dog tied up anymore."

Her Aunt Bee agreed to keep the puppy, and the dog lived a free and happy life for another 16 years.

"That was when I knew in my heart what I wanted to do," Gina says.

Some years later she became proficient with software and computer technology, creating [clinchq](http://clinchq.com)

This work brought her spay-neuter organizing to the Hopi and Navajo nations. Now living in Portland, Gina more recently felt the need to bring the services closer to home in Oregon.

Through a friend she heard about Fences for Fido,

who are known here for providing pet food, health care and other services to Warm Springs dog and cat owners.

The June and early-July Warm Springs Spay-A-Thon could be the roll-out of a new venture among Oregon Native communities. As mentioned earlier, there are many spots still open for pet owners—of dogs and cats—to use this service at no cost. You can sign-up online at: firstnationsvet.com/warmspringnation

Or call 503-451-0765. And on the Spay-A-Thon flyer there is also a scannable code you can use to register.

— Dave McMechan

The Central Oregon Community College First Nations Student Union Welcomes You to the

2023 SALMON BAKE

SATURDAY, MAY 13
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
COCC Bend campus, Athletic Field

Join us for a FREE, traditionally prepared salmon lunch and a Native American celebration!

EVENT & LUNCH IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, contact Jeremiah Rector 541.318.3782 | jrector@cocc.edu

Logos for Central Oregon Community College, Warm Springs, and ASCOCC.

♿ In advance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability should contact Caitlyn Gardner at 541.383.7237. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541.383.7583.

Warm Springs MARKET

Family Owned Since 1944

HOMEMADE soup is back!
Monday—Chili Mac Tuesday—Chicken Noodle Wednesday—Navy Bean w/Meat Thursday—Beef Stew
Friday ONLY—Hector's Pozole

Beads, Native American Gifts, Deli, Grocery, Ice, Fishing Permits, Western Union, Check-Free Bill Pay, ATM and much more!

541-553-1597
2132 Warm Springs Street, Warm Springs, Oregon

For new kindergartners

The Warm Springs Academy Kindergarten Welcome and Sign-Up event is set for Wednesday, May 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Academy.

Families with children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1 should plan on attending in order to register your student for kindergarten in the fall.

Now is the time to be working with your child to prepare them for the 'big school.'

If you have any questions, please contact the Warm Springs Academy at 541-553-1128.

Warm Springs Victims of Crime

Putting the picture together

This month, let's make a commitment to trying something new. Let's transform the ways that we work together to preserve and support families!

#ChildAbusePreventionMonth #ThrivingFamilies

Hear the stories directly from parents on why easy and equitable access to prevention resources is key to helping them best care for their children.

Children are Safer

We all have the power to stop child abuse

Community notes...

The Warm Springs Earth Day Community Clean-Ups 2023 are happening soon:

The Warm Springs Agency area clean up is this Friday, April 21 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Community Center parking lot. Supplies, snacks, water and lunch will be provided.

The Simnasho Clean-Up is on Sunday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Organizers will have supplies, lunch and door prizes for volunteers. Elsewhere:

Homeowners of the reservation who need assistance with costs of electricity can learn about the LIHEAP program by contacting Jackie Minson at 541-553-4955.

Or send her an email: j.minson@wstribes.org

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

Be part of the intertribal work to protect salmon & treaty fishing rights

Open Now

Portland Office Positions

- Chief Financial Officer \$130-160K
- Watershed Dept Manager \$124-132K
- Salmon Marketing Asst. Coord. \$43-46K
- Fish Biologist (PBT Coord.) \$53-74K

Columbia Gorge Positions

- Police Officers \$62-68K
- Dispatcher/Comms Officers \$45-50K
- Fish Technicians (temp) \$21.15 - \$22.11/hr

Hagerman, Idaho Positions

- Genomics Researcher \$51-71K
- Research Summer Intern \$18/hr

La Grande, Oregon Positions

- Fishery Technicians (temp) \$20.92- \$22.32/hr

Coming Soon

- Fishing Site Maint. Deputy Mgr., *The Dalles*
- Maintenance Workers, *The Dalles, OR*

Applying is fast and easy. Visit critfc.org/jobs or scan the QR code for full position details and application materials.

4/6/2023