

# Letters to the editor

## Crown for Miss Warm Springs 2024

The Miss Warm Springs Pageant is seeking tribal artists to submit a bid for the 2024 Miss Warm Springs Crown.

If you are interested in beading the crown for the Pageant crown, please submit a bid to:

sandra.danzuka@wstribes.org

Or to:

minnie.yahtin@wstribes.org

The crown must be at minimum 6 inches tall and 21 inches long, and have the tribal flag, using size 13 cut beads. As 2024 will be here in no time, the artist will need to get start; so the deadline to submit your bid is by the end of the day this Friday, October 20. Thank you!

**The Miss Warm Springs Pageant.**

## Fitness classes

Warm Springs Fitness classes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. at the Community Center. Tuesday classes are Fitness Fusion with dumbbells and cardio; and Wednesdays are Yoga Strong with mindful movement (schedule may vary). For information contact:

leah.guliasi@wstribes.org

## River dams and salmon

Since time immemorial, for many thousands of years, long before any European explorers set foot on the Americas, the Native American civilizations were already here, and in the Northwest salmon fishing was always a way of life. All of the river tribes’ cultures have an important First Salmon ceremony. Then in the year 1805 the Lewis and Clark expedition were at the Columbia River and documented the fast free flowing Snake River and the Indian fishers catching large numbers of salmon.

There is one stock of Chinook salmon only Native to the Snake River that is the largest run of the biggest Chinook salmon in the world. In fact, this species weighed 100 pounds each and some were over 100 pounds. In the Lewis and Clark expedition era, the rivers were natural and fast. The smolts’ down migration to the Pacific Ocean was fast and short. It took three weeks to reach the ocean, that was the natural flow way before the special interest dams and

reservoirs on the Snake River.

Some dams blocked the adult salmon’s migrations up river. Some salmon stocks became extinct. Some were listed as endangered or threatened. The large number of dams on the Columbia River and on the Snake River made the rivers no longer fast. They are now slow. The slack water above the dams has caused the salmon smolts down migration to be longer. It now takes about six weeks or more instead of the original three weeks.

Another danger is predator fish like the Northern pike minnow, and transplanted predators such as bass, walleye and now regular pike and carp, which all thrive in slack water around the dams. A high percentage of smolts are killed as they pass through the many high speed turbine blades at each dam. Also they are killed by gas super saturation from the spillways. In 1981 the Snake River tributary, the Grand Ronde River stock of coho became extinct. Then in 1986 all Snake River coho became extinct.

The dams kill salmon. The four lower Snake River dams need to be breached.

**Anthony Littleleaf** ~ Awe-Na.

## Social Security 2024 increases

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, SSI, benefits will increase 3.2 percent in 2024. On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by more than \$50 per month starting in January.

Social Security beneficiaries will see the 3.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, beginning in January 2024. Increased payments to people receiving SSI will begin on December 29, 2023. Some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits.

**Rose Alarcon**, Social Services, Warm Springs office, Aged Persons with Disabilities. Phone 541-777-2785.

## Open enrollment

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and enterprise employees open enrollment is this Wednesday through Friday, October 18-20. Sessions will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. each day at the Warm Springs Community Center Social Hall.

If you missed your oppor-



~ Sharing a couple of Happy Halloween classics from Travis Bobb ~



tunity for coverage, this is your chance to sign up for health coverage, supplemental insurance coverage, flexible spending account, and 401K, etc.

HealthComp is the tribe’s plan administrator for health insurance. The Hartford is the supplemental insurance carrier. Allegiance is for FSA flexible spending (childcare and medical). Bok Financial manages the 401K, and RV Kuhns is the investor of 401K.



Paper enrollment forms for HealthComp and Allegiance flexible spending accounts must be returned to the Compensation and Benefits Department in order to enroll no later than November 30. Comp and Benefits manager is Lisa Lomas, and the Comp and Benefits administrator is Monica Arthur. You can email to: Comp\_benefits@wstribes.org

Online enrollment is available at CTWS.EASE.Com

If you haven’t already logged in or need a password reset, please contact Comp and Benefits.

Tyler Moore works with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on managing most employee benefits. He shares the following:

“One pretty significant change to the medical plan this year is that the provider network will be changing. For the past 15 years or so the Tribes have used First Choice Health Network for the provider network. Starting January 1 of 2024 they will be changing to Signa. Signa has a robust network

in Central Oregon as well as the Portland area. This move will create significantly deeper discount for employees so should be a win-win for everybody. Coming up toward the first of the year – you should check and make sure your providers are part of the new network.”

*This change plus more about Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Flexible Spending, 401K and more will be covered this week at the employee benefits open enrollment meetings, Wednesday through Friday.*

## For MHS Ag

The Jefferson County School District is developing an Agricultural Science and Technology Lab. This will offer 509-J students real world experiences in agriculture.

The Land Lab will be on 35 acres of land in Madras near the high school. The lab will allow students to engage in practical studies on soil quality, composition, nutrient content, water quality; and the identification of native, invasive, and noxious weeds and pests.

Over the next three years, the district plans to update the facilities on the property, provide accessible parking lot and restroom facilities and provide livestock housing and working facility. All while students are working to farm, irrigate, plant, fertilize, and upkeep the land.

Madras High School FFA utilized the Land Lab for a District FFA Soil Judging Competition. Nearly 70 students from multiple Oregon

school districts converged to assess and judge soil samples in three different pits on the 35 acres, further showing the potential and significance of the property.

## Language learning

The National Science Foundation Research Experience Site for Undergraduates at the University of Oregon Linguistics is accepting applications: The subject of study is increasing American Indian and Alaska Native perspectives in field and experimental linguistics.

The Research Experience for Undergraduates Site is an eight-week summer program fully funded by the National Science Foundation.

Students participating in the program will work closely with faculty on a hands-on research project and will receive funding for travel, on-campus housing, and a weekly stipend.

The program is hosted by the Department of Linguistics at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Applications are due on November 15. The program begins June 10 and ends August 2, 2024. The first week is remote; the rest is in-person.

Eligibility: The program is open to students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents; and will have completed at least their first year in college or community college. Also:

Identify as Native American-Alaska Native or have a family-cultural connection with American Indian or Alaska Native peoples. Also:

Have at least one semester of undergraduate course

work remaining before receiving their baccalaureate. This program has no minimum GPA requirement.

How to apply:

Applicants are asked to fill out an online application form via [blogs.uoregon.edu/reuling/application/](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/reuling/application/)

And submit the following supporting materials:

Statement of Purpose explaining why you are applying for this opportunity. Unofficial university or college transcript. Two letters of recommendation.

You may upload your submission (PDF or .doc file) or copy and paste your letter when prompted. For more information about the program, visit our website at [blogs.uoregon.edu/reuling/](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/reuling/)

## Columbia Treaty talks

The U.S. and Canada conducted the nineteenth round of Columbia River Treaty negotiations this month in Portland. Through these negotiations the U.S. negotiation team continues to press forward with the visions laid out by the U.S. and Canada to fulfill the vision laid out by the countries, as they note:

The Columbia River is a vital shared resource that underpins many lives and industries on both sides of the border and the watershed requires our attention and prompt coordination.

The U.S. leads a negotiating team consisting of representatives from the BPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, and NOAA. The U.S. delegation also included expert-advisors from the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, the Colville Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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TWC Recreation Department Presents

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Tue. October 31, 2023

Community Center Pi Ume Sha Fields

Booth Set up - 3:00 pm - 3:45pm

Fun & Games Begin @ 4:00pm

Everyone one welcome to set up a Booth

join us for Halloween fun

FMI CWC/REC office @541-553-3243

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