

## Letters to the editor

### Heritage events at COCC

Central Oregon Community College is commemorating Native American Heritage Month in November with a diverse lineup of free community events at the Madras and Bend campuses.

Special events include a poetry reading with past Oregon Poet Laureate Elizabeth Woody; a rap performance with Blue Flamez; a flute concert with Grammy-winning James Greeley; plus a comedy show with Gilbert Brown.

The poetry reading with Ms. Woody will also include an audience question and answer. Her reading begins Saturday, November 4, starting at 6 p.m. at the Pinckney Performing Arts Center on COCC's Bend campus.

Hip-hop and rap artist Blue Flamez (Scott Kalama) will perform from 1-2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7 in the Hitchcock Auditorium on the Bend campus. Blue Flamez is winner of the Tokyo Film Festival's Best Music Video, and Native American Music Awards winner. Grammy Award winner James Greeley will then perform from 2-3 p.m., also on Tuesday November 7. Mr. Greeley will perform selections of his flute music.

Comedian Gilbert Brown will appear at COCC's Madras campus on Friday, November 17 from 6:30-7:30. Also known as the 'Naughty Rez Dog,' Gilbert is a member of the Modoc, Klamath, Paiute and Warm Springs tribes. His storytelling style of comedy includes tales of rodeos and reservation life. I would like to say:

We as Native folk give respect to our ancestors in numerous ways on a daily basis, but Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to showcase to the world our celebration of Indigenous strength and resiliency by honoring those who fought for our way of life.

That honor is displayed by talented individuals, such as poets, musicians, comedians, bead workers and educators, to only mention a fraction, who fuse those talents with culture to express a compelling story. These stories are to encourage and educate future generations to continue the path.

For more information on these events, contact me at 541-318-3782. Or email: jrector@cocc.edu

You can also visit [cocc.edu/multicultural](http://cocc.edu/multicultural) for details. In advance of college events, persons needing accommodation or transporta-

tion because of a physical or mobility disability should contact Caitlyn Gardner at 541-383-7237. **Jeremiah Rector**, COCC Native American Program coordinator.

### Flu, covid vaccines

The Warm Springs IHS clinic is offering seasonal vaccine clinics. No appointment is needed, and walk-ins are welcome, during the hours of 10 a.m. to 12 noon Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The no-appointment needed hours are also from 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays.

The new covid vaccine is also available at the clinic.

### Indian Autumn

The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum will host the Fifth Annual Columbia River Indian Autumn this Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and features artisans, musicians, cultural dancers, storytellers, food, and vendors from the Columbia River's Native community and beyond.

Language instructor and Warm Springs cultural artist Jefferson Greene will begin the festivities with a blessing at 9:30 Saturday morning.

Traditional Native American flutist James Edmund Greeley will perform original music at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Yakama Nation's Iksiks Washana'lama, or 'Little Swans,' perform at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Little Swans are a collective of young women brought together by the culture, history, and language of their tribe through oral interpretations of songs and dance.

Visitors can feast on a locally caught, traditional Native Salmon bake for \$20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The salmon is prepared and presented by Warm Springs' Salmon King Fisheries.

Tickets for the lunch are available for pre-purchase at [gorgediscovery.org](http://gorgediscovery.org)

Lunch is available until supplies last. Please bring cash for vendor purchases.

### Commodities

In the Commodities warehouse at the Warm Springs Industrial Park, the USDA Food Distribution Program is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed from noon to 1 for lunch.

Meanwhile, Fences for Fido does its distributions

## Museum celebrates 2023 Gala and Fundraiser

The Museum at Warm Springs is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary throughout 2023. In October the museum hosted a Gala Celebration and Fund-raiser, with nearly 160 guests in attendance at Tetherow in Bend.

This was the first fundraiser the museum has hosted since 2019, from before covid.

The 2023 Gala and Fundraiser netted a total of \$110,000 through event partnerships, individual ticket sales, generous individual donations, and additional grants and gifts. The monies raised will enable the museum to continue its 30-year tradition of sharing the history, culture and art of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and other Indigenous peoples, to pass along traditional tribal artistic and cultural knowledge, including language, through its community classes. The museum also works to preserve and protect its precious objects, historic photographs and archival materials, also helped through the fundraiser.

The event's major partners were Indian Head Casino and Plateau Travel Plaza, the Warm Springs Gaming Enterprise and The Gordon Family. Other event partners included:



Colin Fogarty/Courtesy MAWS

Museum board member Paul Dewey listens as Elizabeth Woody, museum executive director, addresses the gathering.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council. Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council. The Roundhouse Foundation. BBK Best, Best & Krieger LLP. Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

Visit Central Oregon; and Travel Oregon. The Portland General Electric Foundation. Empire Construction and Development. The City of Bend. Central Oregon LandWatch. Elizabeth Woody and Dwight Ball Morrill. Orrick. Desert Botanicals. The Pahlisch Family Foundation. BNY Mellon Pershing, John and Brenda

Curnutt. St. Charles Health Systems. Brooks Resources Corporation; and the and Sunriver Resort.

### Facility improvements

"On behalf of the museum of Warm Springs, boards of directors, Board of Regents, and our staff, I want to thank everyone who attended and so generously contributed to making our event such a success," said Elizabeth A. Woody, museum executive director.

"We are greatly appreciative of the grants and gifts that we receive from our many partners throughout the year," Ms. Woody said.

"We depend on them to be able to offer the type of programming that will benefit the Warm Springs people and all others who visit our Museum." Ms. Woody adds:

"However, our work at the museum is far from over, and we are now looking forward to the next 30 years and beyond as we continue to build on this year's anniversary theme of 'renewal,' which means refreshing the museum's aging infrastructure, replacing the HVAC system, and refurbishing our popular Permanent Exhibit.

"And for that to happen, we will continue to look to the continued support from our partners."

### Twanat awards

Renowned linguist and scholar Dr. Phillip Cash Cash (Nez Perce/Cayuse) was the evening's emcee. Dr. Cash Cash is also an accomplished musician of the Native flute and presented original music during the evening.

Roberta 'Bobbie' Conner (Cayuse, Umatilla and Nez Perce), citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla; and W. Richard West Jr. (Cheyenne-Arapaho), member of the Society of Southern Cheyenne Peace Chiefs, received the museum's Twanat Award.

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### Community notes...

A **Veterans Appreciation Dinner** is coming up at the at the Simnasho Longhouse on Thursday evening, November 9. There will be one 7 of Washut at 5 p.m., then a potluck dinner at 6. Everyone is welcome to share a meal with the veterans and their families. Feel free to bring pictures or memorabilia to display for the evening. Elsewhere:

The last day of the Book Fair at the **Warm Springs Academy** Library is this Thursday, November 2. And a reminder to families, this

Thursday is the seventh-grade field trip to the High Desert Museum. There's no school this Friday, November 3, because it's the end of the first quarter and a grading day for teachers.

The Warm Springs **Senior Center** is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Senior fitness classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:45-11:45, with lunch provided after. Senior lunches are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon until 1 p.m. in the dining area.

**Mt. Hood Skibowl**, Collins Lake Resort and The

Grand Lodges in Government Camp are currently hiring. They are holding a Job Fair at Skibowl West this Friday, November 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. Online applications and job descriptions can be found at [skibowl.com](http://skibowl.com)

The Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District **Youth Basketball League** is open for registration now until noon on December 8.

The league is for boys and girls pre-k through sixth-grade. Games will be played in January and February.

Register online at: [macreccdistrict.org](http://macreccdistrict.org) Or call 541-475-4253.

## !DATQUP IDUIHAMAX IKIAX!

by Rain Circle

It'ukdi wigwa Shidaikt from the 2023 Madras High School Kiksht Class! Currently the Numu, Ichishkiin and Kiksht class share the Native Language room at Madras High School and it is very exciting!

Watching the children soak-up the languages of our tribe will make your heart soar. Radine Johnson is the primary Kiksht teacher and under her guidance, I am the secondary. I have been mentored by Pam Cardenas for the past year at the K-8, and with Del Johnson's help, I am ready for this task...

I have three returning students from the Warm Springs Academy. One is at another school or we would have had them all from the eighth-grade class. And they are a big help, to my confidence and to the learning curve in class.

In the long history and tra-

dition of educators everywhere across our great nation, when I taught the class and I could use a breather in third period, we watched a movie.

My class has been requesting to watch a movie and I was hesitant. I was hesitant because for the entire 509-J school year I only have 16 days to teach them Kiksht, and that is only if they continue taking the class until June.

Each class is about 45 minutes long and by graduation that really only equates to 16 eight-hour days to teach, hence my reluctance.

The solution I came to was 2009's *Reel Injun*, a documentary. Before we watched it I told them if they really want to watch a movie in class, it comes at a price... a film that gives context. Too many times an American gets his or her morals, ethics, values and history lessons from Hollywood; so I figure I can do my

part to get in the way of that, in any way I can.

The documentary is a history of the depiction of Native Americans in Hollywood films, and I think it served them well. Their task was to take notes on what stood out and what they gleaned from the film.

I took those observations and arraigned them into a conscious thought that is now the article you are about to read. It's important to know that while putting the notes together into an interpretive paper, I put my interpretations of shorter, less distinct notes and 'give the reader context' writing in Italics.

### Third-period Kiksht Reel Injun class notes

The main idea of this documentary is to view the stereotype of Indians in cinema and that many people don't care for Indians and we see this in films. Native Americans were one of the first

topics for movies and popular in the silent era. 'Injun' is how they would say or call us in many movies.

Starting early in Hollywood, Indians are shown in a bad manner. Movie productions make us look bad and this makes us angry, then other people get mad and this only makes an already bad relationship with our country and fellow citizens worse.

Movies produce a dialed down version of stereotypes (but not too much) but still have Natives doing weird stuff. Indians, as a subject on film, date back to the 1800s and we are portrayed good and bad but more bad images than good. Far too often in movies Natives were portrayed as savages.

From early on in Hollywood, when actual American Indians were used to portray American Indians, it was not unheard of for them to be reimbursed with tobacco and fire water.

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