

## Letters to the editor

### Academy career day

Hello All,  
We are planning for the Middle School Career Day coming up in March 21. Career Day this year will focus on careers in the sciences, since it will take place during the week of our middle school Science Fair and Family Science Night.

We are in the process of inviting guest professionals who work in science-based careers to come and speak to students. If you or someone you know might be interested in being a guest speaker to share about your career, and the training related to the role, please let me know and I would be happy to reach out. Thank you,

**Gena Bennett**, assistant principal, Warm Springs Academy.  
gbennett@509j.net

### Head Start Graduation

The Warm Springs Head Start and families are holding a 2024 graduation fundraiser, from now through the spring. Head Start parents are funding raising to cover costs of the 2024 Head Start Graduation in June. The fundraiser is accepting bottles and cans with the drop-off location at the Early Childhood Education Center front office. Please pre-bag all donated cans and bottles. Drop-off times are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please, be considerate of the ECE staff and their time.

### State monies

There are many Warm Springs tribal members who may have monies with the state of Oregon. In order to

find whether you have some of these funds available, you must go to the internet.

Then key in 'State of Oregon unclaimed property.'

Then key in your name, and do the search, which should bring up the information.

You must have an email, so the state can email you with any further request for information.

### Snow removal

Tribal Public Utilities is providing free snow removal services from now through April 15. In responding to requests for service, Utilities will follow these priorities: People with medical conditions or disabilities; elders, and other tribal members. The Utilities office can be reached at 541-553-3246; or the on-call number is 541-777-1335. Some background on the service:

Utilities has purchased a couple of truck-mounted snow plows for snow removal of private driveways for residences of the reservation. Utilities employees will plow the rural areas in the higher elevations first when the snow level reaches 6 inches or greater, and as needed. Utilities staff must maintain the tribal organization priority.

Under severe weather conditions, Utilities will not be plowing due to the high risk to employee safety. Homeowner requirements and responsibilities:

Please ensure access: Utilities will not open gates to plow. The driveway and turn-around spot must be clear of any obstructions. Utilities employees will only provide a single for vehicle and turn-around, if possible.

Please be mindful that Utilities staff must provide

and take care of their normal daily duties to ensure operations of the tribal organization. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as always. Be safe and stay warm!

**Chico Holliday**, Utilities general manager.

### Miss Warm Springs Pageant

The Miss Warm Springs Pageant committee has rescheduled the pageant for Friday, March 22.

### Elders movies

The Warm Springs Seniors program is hosting the Elders Movie Night on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The Seniors program provides the transportation.

We will be doing our elders movie nights the first and third Tuesday of the month. And the movie we will be watching will depend on what is coming out. So we will work on getting the information out as soon as we have a solid confirmation on what movies we will be seeing during that week.

### Museum closure

The Thirtieth Annual Warm Springs Tribal Member and Youth Exhibit has closed. The museum was planning to keep the exhibit on display through early March. Instead, though, the installation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is taking a little longer than originally thought.

And due to the ongoing HVAC installation process, the museum management decided to close the exhibit and return the artworks to the artists.

The museum holding the artworks for such an extended period beyond March 6 is too long for any artist. We are grateful to have the agreement for the first-time extension.

The museum's staff is working during the closure so Warm Springs Tribal members who need ceremonial items from the museum Gift Shop during the public closure will be able to purchase them as needed.

I am very pleased to report that although the installation is not going as quickly as we originally hoped, it is going extremely well. We are looking forward to having a brand new system soon.

Major funders of the HVAC system include the U.S. Congress through the National Park Service, the Roundhouse Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, Portland General Electric Foundation, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

**Elizabeth Woody**, museum executive director.

### Lifeguarding

Lifeguard classes are coming up in March at the Madras Aquatic Center. These are ideal for young people who may be looking for a job after school. And the MAC needs lifeguards! The classes are coming up Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. between the dates of March 5-16. For more information see the website: [macreedistrict.com](http://macreedistrict.com)

### Community notes...

#### Movin' Mountains

The Movin' Mountains Slimdown Challenge 2024 registration is coming up this week. Registration will be

from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Thursday and Friday, February 22-23 at the Warm Springs Community Center. Registration will also be available the same time and dates above; plus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 at the Jefferson County Public Health office, 500 NE A Street, Madras. There is a \$25 entry fee per person, payment due at registration. Participants must be 18 or over to take part in the challenge. For more information call 541-475-4456.

### Birth

*Rishaan Evander Thomas*

Ryan Thomas and Shaylene Craig of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Rishaan Evander Thomas, born on February 4, 2024.

Rishaan joins brother Ryan Jr., 1, and Riyah, 14.

Grandparents on the father's side are Everette Windyboy of Warm Springs, and the late Sharold Thomas.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Joel Queahpama Craig of Warm Springs, and Kathy Smith of Madras.

### Summary of Tribal Council

February 6, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Chairman Jonathan W. Smith Sr. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, James 'Jim' Manion, Vice Chairman Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Rosa Graybael, Carlos Calica, Wilson Wewa Jr., Chief Joseph Moses, Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

• Warm Springs Housing Authority update with Danielle Wood, Brevin Holliday, Alfred Estimo Jr. and Joel Holliday.

• Tribal Court update with Gayleen Adams and

LaDonna Squiemphen.

Discussion: Is Tribal Council in support of moving forward with updating the Rules of Court? Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, Wilson/yes.

• Public Safety update with Nancy Seyler, Dennis White III and Scott Spaulding. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

### POWOW

(from page 1)

**Junior Boys' Traditional:** Chaytun Littleleaf, Aaron Thompson and Daman Danzuka.

**Teen Girls' Fancy-Jingle:** Kayliani Estimo. Skye Victorino and Jodee Jackson.

**Teen Girls' Traditional:** Annie Payre, Kahmussa Green and Minnie Yahtin-Cloud.

**Teen Boys' Fancy-Grass:** Julian Stwyer.

**Women's Fancy:** Persia Sloan, Jolene Greene and Brittney Craig.

**Women's Jingle:** Keely Littleleaf, Sarah Dowty and Betty Stephens.

**Women's Traditional:** Suzanne Slockish, Katrina Miller and Celeste Nunes.

**Men's Grass:** Garrison Johnson, Cecil Jackson Sr. and Wilbur Oatman.

**Men's Traditoinal:** Owen Danzuka Jr., and Quindon Calica.

**Senior Women 55 and up:** Audrey Olney, Anna Williams and Marge Kalama.

**Senior Men 55 and up:** Randy Boise Sr.

**Drums.** North Hill of Pendleton. Umatilla Intertribal, Mission. Vandal Nation, Moscow, Idaho. Beaver Creek, Yakama. Quartz Creek, Simnasho.

**Native American Program**  
Legal Aid Services of Oregon (NAPOLS)  
NAPOLS is a non-profit law firm that offers free civil legal services in specialized areas to income-eligible tribal members.

**Legal Aid Services of Oregon**  
The Central Oregon Region Office for Legal Aid Services of Oregon offers free civil legal services for low-income people in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties and Warm Springs.

## 2024 Legal Help Intake Clinics

Want to find out more about whether NAPOLS or LASO can offer assistance for your legal issue, and if you qualify for services?

We may be able to help you with:

- Will drafting
- Estate planning
- Tenant rights
- Employee rights
- Protection from domestic violence
- Public benefits
- Homeless rights
- Expungement of a conviction

#### Clinic Dates:

February 27 - March 26

All clinics are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Warm Springs Community Action Team  
1136 Paiute Avenue

You may make an appointment by emailing [wills@lasoregon.org](mailto:wills@lasoregon.org) or [lauren.guicheteau@lasoregon.org](mailto:lauren.guicheteau@lasoregon.org)  
And by calling 971-703-7110\*\* or 541-668-8352\*\*

Walk-ins are welcome but may need to wait.  
\*\*These lines cannot accept texts.

## PSU to dramatically increase the diversity of its Ph.D. programs

Portland State University is planning to greatly increase the diversity of students in its Ph.D. programs.

PSU is one of 10 institutions, and the only one in the Pacific Northwest, selected to participate in the Sloan Centers for Systemic Change initiative, providing funding for

the program.

The goal is to remove barriers such as the funding and academic support, which will then lead to overall improved student outcomes, and ultimately create educational environments that are more effective and equitable for all.

Over the course of the

next two years, PSU will use a \$250,000 seed grant to recruit, retain and invest in individual 'Sloan Scholar' scholarships for eligible Indigenous and other diversity eligible students to participate in doctoral programs.

In addition to diversifying programs, PSU hopes the

grant will help bring systemic change by working toward equitable representation, supporting student success, and working to meet the needs of all students.

Leadership believes this could become a model for other minority-serving institutions to follow.

## Howlak Tichum ~

*Virginia Beavert ~  
Tuxámshish*

Beloved Yakama linguist, educator and elder Virginia Beavert has died at age 102.

Ms. Beavert, Indian name Tuxámshish, Beavert celebrated her 102nd birthday in November. An author and a World War II veteran, Virginia dedicated her life to the revitalization and preservation of the Yakama language, Ichishkúin, also referred to as Sahaptin. It's spoken by the Yakama and Warm springs, among the Northwest tribes.

Virginia was the co-author with Sharon Hargus, a linguistics professor at the University of Washington, of the *Ichishkúin Sinwit Yakama/Yakima Sahaptin Dictionary*, which is the first modern



published dictionary of the Sahaptin dialect.

In 2022 she attended a gathering in her honor at the Yakama Nation Museum to celebrate her 101st birthday and sign copies of *Anakú Iwachá: Yakama Legends and Stories*, an expanded collection of foundational Yakama stories she edited with Michelle Jacob and Joana Jansen.

It's the second edition of *Anakú Iwachá, The Way It Was*, an important educational and cultural resource published in 1974.

Born on November 30, 1921, Beavert grew up in a traditional Indigenous home,

learning and speaking tribal dialects and languages, including Ichishkúin, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Klikatát, according to her book, *The Gift of Knowledge/Ttnúwit Atawish Nch'inch'imami: Reflections on Sahaptin Ways*.

Heritage University in Toppenish, where Beavert was revered, also supports the revitalization of the Ichishkúin language.

Faculty member Gregory Sutterliet was a student of Beavert, and teaches Ichishkúin to Heritage students and community members alike. He also takes teaches children throughout the Lower Yakima Valley.

Her students teach Ichishkúin classes at Heritage, Wapato School District, Toppenish School District, Mt. Adams School District and the University of Oregon. Ichishkúin is also being shared and taught on social media and YouTube videos,

among other modern options

for learning and preserving the language.

Beavert taught and mentored at the University of Oregon's Northwest Indian Language Institute. She was the Distinguished Elder Educator in its Sapsik'walá Teacher Education Program and was the university's oldest-ever graduate when she earned a doctorate in linguistics from the university at age 90.

Ichishkúin is an endangered language, with fewer than 150 people speaking it fluently, according to the University of Oregon, though there are more people who can communicate to some degree. And many people use the language in greetings, introductions and more at events and on social media.

*May Virginia rest in peace.*

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