

Letters to the editor

Elders movie nights Tuesdays

The Elders Movie Night of the tribes' Seniors program is on Tuesday evenings. Pick-ups start at 3 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please call the Senior Wellness building at 541-553-3313.

Assistance

VeggieRX is a free produce prescription program for individuals experiencing food insecurity and diet-related medical issues. Eligible participants are provided ten weeks of produce shares, one-on-one coaching, and nutrition education resources. Eligibility for enrollment:

Must be 18 years of age or older, and experiencing food insecurity. A commitment of ten weeks; and receive a referral from a health care provider, including dietician, physician or nurse practitioner.

Send your referral to Kelly Moffatt, VeggieRX senior manager, High Desert Food and Farm Alliance at 541-310-3111. Or email:

kelly@hhdffa.org
For more information see: hhdffa.org/veggierx

Good steelhead news this spring

Fishers in the Pacific Northwest have reason for optimism after biologists recorded the best return of sea-run rainbow trout to the Upper Willamette Basin in two decades.

The news comes just seven years after fishery managers

counted the lowest run ever on the Willamette, with roughly 820 fish returning to spawn in 2017.

Reports from earlier this month say that some 7,700 steelhead climbed a fish ladder at the Willamette Falls near Oregon City this year, and that number has most likely grown since then.

When steelhead runs reached an all-time low in 2017, with just 822 fish climbing the ladder at the falls in Oregon City, conservationists and biologists were worried that the species could become extinct from the Upper Willamette Basin altogether.

Concerns grew from there after a herd of sea lions began targeting and preying on the fish as they gathered to migrate across the ladder. Forty-six sea lions were killed in 2018 to help the struggling fish rebound.

An Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife official said the federally-sanctioned sea lion culling program likely played a role in helping steelhead numbers bounce back to current levels.

Museum permanent collection

The Museum at Warm Springs Board of Directors last year discussed the renewal of the Permanent Exhibit.

The collection has not been upgraded since the museum opened 31 years ago in 1993.

Now is time to begin focusing on the exhibit, which remains the most popular attraction for visitors, and is an important way that the Warm Springs people tell

Great success and services at April W.S. pet clinic

The First Nations Veterinary, Fences for Fido, Warm Springs Fire and Safety and volunteers in April combined to provide veterinarian services to many pet owners in Warm Springs.

In all, 117 animals were spayed or neutered; 234 vaccines were distributed; and 1,404 doses of flea and tick treatments given to community member pets. This will last the animals for the rest of the year.

The clinic team also provided microchips for any family who requested them.

This opportunity was a collaborative effort. Volunteers who donated their valuable time and expertise included Pinky Beymer, Darnell Gorrosquieta and Aurolyn Stwyer.

June clinic

The next Warm Springs Spay and Neuter clinics will



The First Nations team and volunteers at April clinic.

be on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2. First Nations Veterinary, Fences for Fido, Greater Good Charities and the Bissell Pet Foundation will host the clinics at the Warm Springs Fire Agency.

Free services include spay and neuter, vaccines, microchip, and flea and tick

preventatives. Registration is required any of three ways: Call 503-451-0765. Or go to:

firstnationsvet.com/warm-springs-nation

Or point your phone camera at the square image in the flyer notice to open the registration page.



Waiting for the vet...

their story to the world.

Now that our Thirtieth Anniversary year is over, we need to start planning for a new phase in the life of our museum that will include much-needed upgrades to our aging infrastructure and renewal of our Permanent Exhibit.

Museum operations manager Sunmiet Maben has been appointed project manager of the Permanent Exhibit renewal project.

Sunmiet managed the entirety of the museum's new HVAC system installation. This was a complex project involving many moving parts, including fundraising, budgeting and invoicing; working with contractors and suppliers and, finally, to successfully overseeing the installation.

A Permanent Exhibition Community Committee comprised of board of directors and tribal members is now in place. The committee so far

includes Ruth 'Pinky' Beymer, Olney Patt, Jr., Donald J. Stastny and Rain Circle.

We will be bringing in more people in the future, especially elders, so there will be a strong sense of continuity, of staying true to the exhibit's content and to what our elders did before us, what they continue to teach us, and what we need to carry into the future.

We are in the process of talking with potential exhibit designers, looking at other museums to see what the trends are in terms of design, technology, lighting, tone, colors and the list goes on.

The museum will also be conducting surveys—a selection of focus questions, strategically placed throughout the Permanent Exhibit. We will ask that visitors take some time and complete these surveys for us so we can also get their ideas and

Warm Springs Spay & Neuter Clinic



JUNE 1st & 2nd
@ WARM SPRINGS FIRE & SAFETY

FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:
Spay/Neuter, Vaccines,
Microchip and Flea +
Tick Preventatives



REGISTRATION REQUIRED ANY OF 3 WAYS:

1. Go to <http://firstnationsvet.com/warm-springs-nation>
2. Call (503) 451-0765
3. Point phone camera at this square image to open registration page



DOGS AND CATS ARE BOTH WELCOME!
*ANIMALS MUST RESIDE WITHIN THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION BOUNDARY

opinions about the exhibit.

The estimate for renewal of the Permanent Exhibit is approximately \$1-2 million.

The museum received a

\$90,000 scoping and assessment grant for phase 1 of this project from Visit Cen-

At the Cherry Festival Parade



The 2024 Wasco County Fair and Rodeo Queen Audriyona Gilbert, 15, also just won First Place in the Cherry Festival Parade in the Dalles.

Some history and comments on the story of our tribal leadership

by Rain Circle

It'ukdi Wigwa,

My Name is Rain Circle and it recently occurred to me that I am surprised at watching people learn something, for the first time, information I have known for decades. Almost as immediately I realized that it shouldn't be so 'strange' because, at on point I had to learn it for the first time too. Now, I am by no means presenting myself as some kind of Wasq'u Ishtam expert but I am certain there are a lot of other tribal members who would like to know some of the things I learned about Wasco Chief history. This article is meant to be informational not persuasive. I just want to share what I have learned about leadership and the Wasco Chief selection, then get more information to add to this, if you wish to give it.

Recently the Wasco's (Wasq'u idelxam) have had the dilemma of how to best choose their new Wasco Chief. I want to share what I have learned over my time on the Warm Springs Reservation, as Wasco tribal member, from oral histories, documents available at Culture and Heritage, and the Internet.

For the purpose of this article I will define 'leadership' as:

"The process of influencing people by providing them with purpose, direction, and motivation while you are operating to accomplish a task(s) and improve the organization."

Wasq'u Chiefs

The Wasco had a three to four class system: The Chiefly classes and rich, common peoples, and slaves. The slaves were at the bottom of the system, and a big notch above them were the commoners. Above those people were the rich and the Chiefly classes, could have been considered another class. This class system and the common practice of keeping slaves were typical of the Northwest Coast. *Native Americans in the Historical Record - John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (U.S. National Park Service).*

In the Kiksht language we can hear this classification in some prefixes for words. The prefix 'Wi-' and 'Wa-' at the beginning of words denotes importance or reverence. Good examples of this are the words 'Wanaqsh' which means 'mother' and 'Winamsh,' meaning 'father.'

If we add those prefixes to 'ik'ashkash,' meaning 'boy' and 'ak'ashkash, meaning 'girl,' we get 'Wik'ashkash' and 'Wak'ashkash,' and we know that those children are the children of important people in the tribe.

That was a quick version of Wasco leadership and hierarchy prior to the Treaty of 1855, which only had the Warm Springs and Wasco in mind, after which many changes took place. Prior to the treaty, Wasco people had freedoms over their village sites, territories, economies, social and cultural norms, and ways of living. Families had the right to pass on knowledge and customs the way they saw best, in accordance with their indigenous history, but after the signing much was dictated to them by the U.S. government.

The relocation from a home that had a river life of lush forest with ample water and quick travel by canoe eventually became the arid high desert environment we know today where permission was required, from the federal government, to access traditional foods that were on lands and waterways that now belonged to the settling colonists.

We can hear the effects of this life changing event in our language, such as 'Aixtba Wigwa' and 'Makwshatba Wigwa' are the words for Monday and Tuesday in Kiksht. In English Monday means 'The moon's day' (from the Anglo-Saxon word Mōnand'g) and Tuesday means 'Tiw's day' and refers to an old Proto-Germanic god in Old Norse language. In Kiksht, Aixtba Wigwa roughly means 'on day one' and Makwshatba Wigwa, 'day two.' One can conclude during our assimilation that our ancestors organized their days around an Anglo-European schedule and instituted their own words. This subjugation is well seen in the word 'igimak,' which is a word for Saturday. From the Kiksht Dictionary - "*i-gimak [n] gift, giving away, rations, Saturday* Examples: Saturday is called by this name because it was the day when rations were given out.' In the Kiksht 'igiwaq' means meat.

In less than fifteen years after the treaty, with the 'peace policy' of 1869, the U.S. Indian boarding school policy was implemented and the cultural genocide of our people began.

(Continues on page 9)

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