

Letters to the editor

Members Day at Kah-Nee-Ta

Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs Resort will host the Tribal Appreciation Day at the resort from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 22. All tribal members are offered free day use during these hours.

Confederated Tribes members will have 50 percent off cabana rentals, and 25 percent off food and drinks. Other tribal members will have 25 percent of cabana rentals.

Thank you Confederated Tribes of Warm Sprins for giving Kah-Nee-Ta an amazing first season. Kah-Nee-Ta Host Springs Resort.

Why this school name?

Located at 610 West 14th Street in The Dalles is the Colonel Wright School. Just who is this Colonel Wright and why do we have a school named after him?

Colonel Wright was an officer in the United States Army. He was born in Norwich, Vermont and was a West Point graduate. During the time of his service in the Oregon territories, he engaged in making treaties with the Native American tribes of this area.

On September 9, 1858, he and his men, in order to subdue the Palouse Indians, slaughtered some 800 horses, destroying the tribes' economy and insuring tribal starvation the following winter. On the twenty-fifth of that month the Yakima warrior Qualchin went to him with a white flag of surrender.

Without charges or a trial the colonel immediately hanged him. He misappropriated government funds to the sum of \$90,000, that is 1858 dollars, to build himself a two story mansion complete with a fireplace in every room.

He referred to it as the 'Luxury Resort of the Oregon Territories.'

In the summer of 1858, Colonel Wright gathered the Klickitat, Wasco, and Walla Walla tribes to be escorted to the reservation at Warm Springs.

On arrival, he selected four Walla Walla men at random and had them hanged without charges or a trial just to assert his authority over the tribes.

Colonel Wright perpetuated a policy of ethnic cleansing, environmental destruction and mass murder to claim his place in history. Mt question is, "Why do we have an elementary school named after this man?"

Mike Farmer, Hood River.

Home for sale

Home for sale. A four bedroom, two bath with detached garage. Completely remodeled in like new condition. Located in Simnasho. If interested contact Bucky Cochran or Lori Fuentes at the Tribal Credit Enterprise office at 541-553-3201.

Council election

The Tribal Council approved the schedule for next year's Tribal Council elections. Nominations will take place for all districts on Tuesday, January 7.

The following day, the district chairs will certify the nominees. Then the present Council will advertise the Elections and Counting boards.

Later in January will be the deadline for new voters to select a district, or for current member voters to change their voting district. Absentee ballots are expected to go out in the mail in mid February. And the election is set for Wednesday March 26, 2025.

Basketball on KWSO

KWSO is broadcasting all the Madras Basketball home contests for both the boys and girls basketball. You can listen on your radio at 91.9 FM, online at kwso.org, or with the KWSO app.

The app makes it easy to listen to KWSO if you're away from a radio. Search KWSO in your app store and download the free app today.

Behavioral Health

Every Tuesday at the Behavioral Health Center in Warm Springs, there's a Community Health and Wellness group at 11 a.m., a Wellbriety Meeting at 1 p.m., Adult Anger Management Class at 3; Adult A&D Education at 4, and Youth Wellbriety at 4.

Transmission: Capacity, ownership, benefits for the tribes

By Cathy Ehli,
Executive director,
Power and Water
Enterprises

In our first column, we briefly mentioned the \$250 million grant that Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises received, on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, to upgrade the Bethel-Round Butte transmission line.

We'd like to share a little bit more about what makes this so significant for the tribes and why it's a critical part of the enterprises' work to support Tribal sovereignty.

Here's the backstory. The line transmits power from the Pelton Round Butte hydropower project to the Willamette Valley. It was built in the 1960s, and it needs to be upgraded because the current line's capacity is fully utilized.

The tribes applied to the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Resilience Innovative Partnership Pro-



Cathy Ehli

gram, GRIP, for a grant to address these issues, in partnership with our Pelton Round Butte co-owners and -operators, Portland General Electric (PGE).

What the tribes received is an unprecedented award for a tribal and investor-owned utility partnership.

The grant will fund upgrades to the Bethel-Round Butte line to enhance its ability to transmit more power. We'll make the upgrades in partnership with PGE, ensuring access to new transmission capacity for the Tribes..

That partnership is

key—it makes new renewable energy projects like solar development possible, and will bring in increased revenues that the tribes can invest in their community.

Upgrading the line directly benefits the communities in other ways, too, such as:

- Creating and integrating clean energy jobs curriculum at the Warm Springs Academy, introducing students to a variety of in-demand careers and educational pathways
- Creating a mentorship program that will provide high school students with coaching from energy industry professionals and hands-on learning opportunities in energy careers
- Partnering with Oregon Tradeswomen to support tribal members specifically interested in the trades
- Road construction on the Reservation that will prioritize hiring tribal members and working with Tribal enterprises
- Installing high-capacity

fiber optic communications cables in conjunction with the project construction, bringing broadband access to underserved communities and tribal members along the transmission route as well as additional potential sources of revenue for the tribes.

So, where is this project as of now? It officially kicked off on October 22, with a meeting among the Tribes, PGE and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The project is currently estimated to take 8-10 years to complete, so our focus for the next two years will be to plan the details of the project including the timeline. Workforce programming and community engagement is currently expected to begin at the beginning of 2025.

As more details are confirmed for what will happen in 2025, we will share them with members.

Welcoming Dr. Ian Cheslock as the clinic optometrist

Dr. Ian Cheslock has joined the Warm Springs Indian Health Services team as our permanent full time optometrist.

He is thrilled to be back in Central Oregon with his wife Kaitlyn and two kids Collin, 2, and Emma, age 4 months.

Dr. Cheslock grew up in Central Oregon skiing, hiking and exploring the outdoors.

He is a graduate of Pacific University in Oregon, where he was recognized



Dr. Ian Cheslock

as the Most Outstanding Clinician of his class.

His training took him all across the country, in-

cluding rotations at IHS clinics on the Pyramid Lake and Cherokee reservations.

Dr. Cheslock notes these experiences fueled his passion for community-centered care.

After finishing school, Ian returned to his hometown of Longview, Washington, to work in private practice for two years. He then moved to New Mexico to join the IHS there.

Now, Dr. Cheslock is ex-

cited to settle down permanently at the Warm Springs Clinic.

He looks forward to getting to know the community, building strong connections, and helping meet the unique eye care needs of Warm Springs Community.

To schedule an appointment call 541-553-2483, or drop in to the Optometry Department when you are in the clinic.



Courtesy Papalaxsimisha

In November we concluded our First Annual Papalaxsimisha Volleyball Camp in Warm Springs. Thank you to all of the players who showed up, and to their families getting them there on a holiday weekend.

Thank you to Jennifer and Greg of SriPonya for the donation providing snacks and extra volleyballs for the camp.

Thank you to the volunteers and parents who jumped in to play too. Thank you to Ralph and Amanda for bringing your knowledge and love for volleyball to share with our youth and community.

This was an amazing turn out and experience for our youth!

Papalaxsimisha



Photo H&H's

For the Jolly Jamboree gift giveaway next week

A Health and Human Services team was out in December getting ready for the Jolly Jamboree holiday youth gift giving day, coming up Thursday and Friday, December 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The holiday youth gift-giving will be in the old elementary school gymnasium. A parent or guard-

ian must be present. Because this is a parent-guardian only event, youth are not to attend. This is a drug and alcohol free event.

Helping with the shopping for the event were Johnson Bill, Dot Thurby, Britany Archer, Feliciana Conner, Jedidiah Governor, Charmaine Billey and Chester VanPelt.

Tribal Chairman Jonathan Smith joined the H&H's shopping team, here at the store with Dayle Tufti.

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