

Letters to the editor and opion

KNT tribal bath-house is ready

The tribal bathhouse at Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs Resort is ready for the membership. The permanent pass badge also lets the person enter the property to eat at the restaurant as well. Members have to go through the resort process to get the badge, following the instructions using the link below: kahneeta.com/tribal-bath-house-and-food-pass-walkthrough/

Once you have the badge you can make reservations for the bath-house.

Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs Resort

Reservation growth

Certain growth depends on people taking action together for shared moral values; also could be towards redevelopment to fit today’s outside world around Native American sovereignty.

The natural mixture of views can make solid, sound discernment towards the already established tribal organization norm, or it can also be for only self-gain and family. Leadership in our community is supposed to build up the general welfare for membership; but with the old pattern of olden skills, this is not working in our world or the world of today.

The ‘get rich schemes’ that already clearly marked another downfall of tribal dollars, and should be planted in your intellect—that old pattern needs to cease! Our world, our sovereignty requires to move on, get rid of

the ‘click’ for certain districts; clearing the self-centeredness of yourself.

Our Indian culture is not going away; Warm Springs is still known for its culture ties; the language program, teaching culture-making baskets, beadwork, tule mats, cultural foods, cultural feasts, longhouse teaching, singing, drumming, dancing, ceremonial hunting, ceremonial fishing—So move on from saying, that, what we are doing is violating our Treaty Rights, our culture is not going away!

Nourishment in the form of tribal reorganization is simple as changing document language, communicating that to tribal members; it’s not that ‘victim mentality’ of making hard decisions, it’s making the right decisions for the future of our sovereignty and as a people.

It is the responsibility of you fearless leaders to make a successful livelihood for our people; you took an oath to that duty; plus, a man’s word is only good as his actions.

And I am very honored of the Smith Family’s from Wesley Smith and Annie Jackson; we have so many diverse career abilities to be a guiding influence for the future of our reservation. We had a Wasco man appointed to work in the White House, we have present and past Tribal Council members, attorneys, CEO/S-T, general managers, law enforcement, tribal judge, successful Ph.D. persons that hold Masters, Bachelors, AA degrees, financial successes, alcohol and drug Counselors and mentors, Firefighters, World Champion Wild Horseman, direct descendant of World Champion

Men’s Fancy Dancer, Public Health workers, fishermen, hunters, root and berry pick-

ers, Language instructor, men and women of U.S. military, and of course, great parents, marvelous aunts and uncles, outstanding children and caring and loving grandparents.

We were born with it my peers, so let’s use it for our community!

Of course I shall not forget closely related bloodlines; I am proud of

you too; let the community know what diverse career intellect you have; let’s join together.

Peace to All. Respectfully, Emma Smith

Museum report details year’s developments

The Museum at Warm Springs has released its Annual Report for the past year. The 18-page report can be found at the museum website: museum.warmsprings-nsn.gov Look under ‘Press room’ to find the report. The report opens with a statement from the president of the board of directors, Olney ‘JP’ Patt Jr. The following is his statement:

Statement from the president of the museum board of directors

Greetings to All, As a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, former Tribal Chairman and long-time Tribal Council member, I have been involved with the Museum at Warm Springs since its founding in 1993.

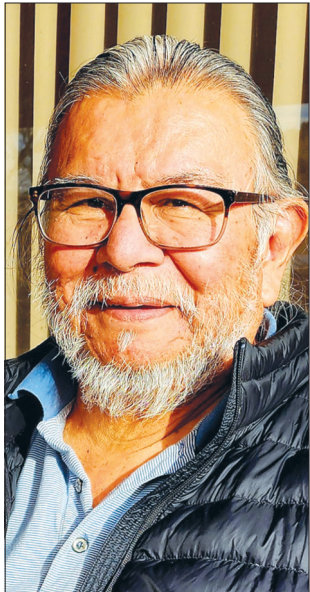
This involvement was first as an employee, later as an advisor and avid supporter. In 2024 it was my honor to be elected as President of the Board of Directors of the Museum at Warm Springs.

The museum staff is expertly led by executive director Elizabeth Woody, a Warm Springs tribal member. She guided her staff to organize informative, enjoyable exhibitions and traditional arts classes for our community, and much more.

The replacement of the museum’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, an immense undertaking, was first and foremost on the list of infrastructure improvements, that needed to be completed.

I’m very proud that the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, among several other funders, helped bring this project to a successful completion. My thanks to all.

In 2024, we chose “Re-



Elizabeth Woody Museum board president JP Patt.

awakening” as a theme that included additional museum renewal projects, including—most importantly—“Reawakening” the museum’s Permanent Exhibit, which is the heart and soul of the museum.

I am pleased to serve on the Warm Springs Community Steering Committee that will assess and plan for the revamped exhibit.

An aggressive fund-raising campaign was started and will continue into 2025. We received wonderful news that the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon has endorsed the Permanent Exhibit renewal, and we will be one of 14 capital construction projects requesting funding from the 2025 Oregon Legislature.

I am very encouraged by all of this activity and am certain that the necessary resources will be found to bring this jewel of an exhibit up to present-day museum standards for the enjoyment and education of all who step through the museum’s doors.

Visitors to the museum in 2024 also started to notice some major upgrades



to the museum grounds. The exterior water feature—always an important focal point in the overall museum landscape design—has been repaired, so the water is again flowing as it was originally intended to do. It’s a beautiful sight and sound.

More improvements are on the way, courtesy of a grant from Visit Bend Sustainability Fund. We would not have been able to do this without this help.

We ended 2024 with an extremely successful end-of-year fundraising campaign, raising a total of \$65,652.50. This is in sharp contrast to 2023, when we raised \$11,530. I am humbled and truly grateful for the immense outpouring of patronage from our donors, members, friends and family, who chose to contribute to the museum in 2024.

The Museum at Warm Springs is a very special place of cultural and historical importance to the Warm Springs people and to all Oregonians. With the



ongoing support of our Board of Directors, Board of Regents, museum staff, our many organizational partners, museum members, donors and others, I am convinced the museum will continue to be successful and thrive well into the future.

I am very grateful to all of you. Olney Patt Jr.

Takala on 40 Under 40 list

Jeremy Takala, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, was named recently to the 2025 Native American 40 Under 40 list.

The honorees, nominated by their peers, “exemplify leadership, initiative, and dedication, making significant contributions to their professions and communities.”

Mr. Takala is a member of the Yakama Nation. Another honoree this year is Jude Schimmel of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation.

This year’s awardees



Jeremy Takala

will be recognized at the Reservation Economic Summit from March 10–13 at Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas.

Lawmakers: Health care in tribal communities in danger under federal hiring freeze impacting IHS

Oregon’s U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, who serve on the Senate and House subcommittees that oversee funding for the Indian Health Service, recently demanded urgent action from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to stop dangerous cuts to the IHS workforce. IHS, they wrote, which is already facing huge challenges and staffing vacancies.

As ranking members of the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees, Sen. Merkley and Rep. Pingree wrote to the U.S. Health and Human Services acting secretary after the administration issued a hiring freeze, proposed buyouts for federal workers, and executive orders that will amount to cutting the federal health care workforce.

Together, these actions jeopardize Indigenous communities’ access to the health care while undermining the



federal government’s ability to meet its trust and treaty obligations to tribes, Sen. Merkley and Rep. Pingree said.

“Freezing the hiring of critical staff positions and attempts to diminish the workforce at the IHS poses a grave threat to the vital medical services provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives—including emergency services, maternity care, and cancer treatments.

“The IHS is already plagued by chronic underfunding and significant staffing shortages, and this hiring freeze and attacks on the federal workforce

impacts its ability to fill vacancies for the medical professionals and staff needed to keep critical facilities and programs operating,” Sen. Merkley and Rep. Pingree stated.

“These actions are exacerbating the current difficulties IHS is confronting to meet the health care needs of Native American communities,” the Senator and Representative said.

“For example, IHS medical facilities regularly face significant vacancy rates for physicians, nurses, and other key clinical providers.

“Last year, IHS experienced nearly 2,000 vacancies, and a 2018 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that IHS had an overall health care provider vacancy rate of 25 percent across service areas.

“These vacancies negatively impact the receipt of

quality and timely health care, employee morale, and force facilities in many tribal communities to reduce access to critical medical care, including behavioral and mental health care, that is needed to address the substance use and suicide crises plaguing Indian Country and Alaska Native villages.

“Further disruption in staffing could push IHS beyond its breaking point, potentially leaving thousands without access to critical care.”

The lawmakers added, “The federal government must honor its trust responsibility to tribal nations. We urge you to advocate for the revocation of this hiring freeze and stop the onslaught on health care professionals.

“The health care of millions of Native Americans and Alaska Natives hangs in the balance.”

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