

Indigenous Speakers at High Desert

This month the High Desert Museum is exploring identity, cultures and how to live the good life. Part of this is the High Desert Museum Indigenous Speaker Series.

The series features an array of Indigenous artists, storytellers, scholars and more who share their unique perspectives with the community.

The three April events explore topics such as identity, creativity, community and portraiture. Two of the events are connected to an exhibition now open at the High Desert Museum.

The exhibition is *Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland*, featuring 20-plus enlarged portraits taken by Matsura of Native peoples in the early 1900s.

This exhibition provides visitors a unique look at life in Okanogan County in Washington state during a time of transition.

On April 25 the museum will host LaRonn Katchia,



LaRonn Katchia

of Warm Springs. Mr. Katchia is the director of *Pathfinders*.

For a discussion of the short film, LaRonn—filmmaker and storyteller—will be joined by Thyreicia Simtustus, Kahmussa Green and Kiahna Allen, also of Warm Springs. The three are featured in the film.

Part of the *Matsura* exhibition, the film explores how the three young leaders are finding their own paths in balancing Native

and non-Native worlds.

Tickets are \$5, with members enjoying free entry.

For tickets, visit highdesertmuseum.org

On April 17, the High Desert Museum will host Chris La Tray, Métis storyteller and award-winning author of *Becoming Little Shell*.

La Tray will discuss the Anishinaabe word Mino-bimaadiziwin, meaning “the good life.”

The concept emphasizes the importance of community well-being and living in harmony with the world around us. At its simplest, it is living a life in balance, but how?

Montana’s Poet Laureate from 2023-2025, La Tray is a descendent of the Pembina Band of the mighty Red River of the North and a member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

His first book, *One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays from the World at Large*, won the 2018



2025
INDIGENOUS
SPEAKERS SERIES

Montana Book Award and a 2019 High Plains Book Award.

The event includes light refreshment and a no-host bar. Tickets are \$12, with members receiving a 20-percent discount and free entry for tribal members. For tickets, visit: highdesertmuseum.org/the-good-life

The Indigenous Speakers Series is made possible by The Roundhouse Foundation, with additional support from Author’s Unbound for the April 17 Chris La Tray event.

For more information and to purchase tickets for Indigenous Speakers Series events, visit:

highdesertmuseum.org/indigenous-speakers-series



**UPCOMING
TRIBAL
REFERENDUMS**

JUNE 16

**Cannabis
Referendum**

JUNE 30

**Adoption
Election**

WARM SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER
8 am - 8 pm



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Funds pending for museum Permanent Exhibit project

The Oregon Cultural Advocacy Coalition in 2024 accepted the Museum at Warm Springs’ proposal for \$1.5 million to renew the museum’s aging Permanent Exhibit.

The funding would be from the Cultural Resource Economic Fund.

The museum’s funding request, along with requests from 13 other Oregon cultural institutions, is currently included in the Oregon Legislature House Bill 3191.

Funding from the Oregon Legislature represents half the cost of museum Permanent Exhibit Renewal.

The museum’s request specifically supports the design, fabrication and installation of a renewed Permanent Exhibit, which hasn’t been updated since the 1993 opening.

The Permanent Exhibit is one-third—at 7,500 square feet—of the

museum’s total space 25,000 squarefeet, underscoring its central significance to the museum.

Why capital funding is crucial now

The growing educational role and purpose and position of the museum as a center of learning about the land, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the people’s resilience and relationships as a whole.

The history, culture, experiences and stories of the Warm Springs tribes have deepened and expanded over the past 30 years, since the museum first opened.

Much, if not most, of the exhibitry is in disrepair or does not work, said Elizabeth Woody, museum chief executive officer. And the entire infrastructure, Ms. Woody added, has aged considerably.

Museum technology has changed dramatically over the last 30 years, she said, and new technology will vastly improve the presentation and elevate visitor experience.

Projet impact on Oregonians of all ages

Equipment and story-telling approaches will be developed specifically for Native and non-Native Oregonians of all ages with mobility, visual, auditory and other challenges.

Building on initial support from Visit Central Oregon, the project strengthens the museum’s growing role in Central Oregon’s economic development, the travel industry, and its importance to Oregonians of all ages. This is especially true for k-12 student groups, in particular those from Jefferson and Deschutes Counties.

How you can help

The museum is asking: Please call or write Representative Greg Smith and Senator Todd Nash.

You can draw from information mentioned above, while also please make this a personal appeal around what a renewed Permanent Exhibit will mean to you.

Highlight the significance of Permanent Exhibit Renewal to Warm Springs people, Oregonians, and visitors including many students and scholars of Columbia Plateau Tribes.

Once it goes to the next Legislative Committee, we will let readers know and encourage you to send messages to members of that Committee.

Each time the bill progresses through the Legislature we will advise you how to reach out to appropriate people, if you so choose.



BINGO Night

Exciting prizes, great company, and endless fun await you at our thrilling Bingo Night event!

APRIL 10TH, 25'**STARTS AT 6:14 PM**
Prevention Campus Cafeteria

Warm Springs Prevention

Special meeting of Tribal Council

March 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jonathan W. Smith. Sr. Roll call: James ‘Jim’ Manion, Chief Joseph Moses, Wilson Wewa Jr., Alvis Smith III, Carlos Calica, Rosa Graybael, Chief Jefferson Greene, Vice Chairman Raymond ‘Captain’ Moody, Lincoln Jay Suppah. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Carlos.

Tribal Council Election certification, presentation by the Election Board and Counting Board members:

- Questions and comments expressed regarding absentee ballots.
- Motion by Jim adopting Resolution No. 13,230,

that the Tribal Council hereby confirms, accepts and validates the results of the Simnasho District (Lincoln Suppah, Carlos Calica, Raymond Moody), Agency District (Dennis White III, Jonathan W. Smith, Alvis Smith III), and Seekseequa District (Lonnie Rosie Tom, Brigitte McConville) as certified by the Election Board. Second by Wilson.

Question: Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, Carlos/yes, 9/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Discussed the upcoming referendums.

Motion by Alvis to adjourn at 11:42 a.m.

Summaries of Tribal Council —

(from page 2)

March 17 (continued from 2)

Willamette Falls trust letter, discussion with Jim Manion:

Motion by Captain approving the letter be sent to Representative Sanchez. Second by Wilson; Question; Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 8/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried

There are no resolutions this month.

- Other business: Executive session, 11:54-12:40.
- Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson, Vital Statistics:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,299, enrolling 11 applicants. Second by Carlos; Question; Jim/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Carlos/yes, Rosa/yes, 8/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• Senate Bill 841 discussion with Candice Jimenez, chief of staff, Northwest

Portland Area Indian Health Board; and Sujata Joshi, project director/epidemiologist, Improving Data and Enhancing Access (IDEA-NW)

Consensus supporting Senate Bill 841, Health and Welfare Committee will share on behalf of the tribes.

- Indian Health Services update with Tammy Wilson and Diane Fuller.
- Warm Springs Managed Care update with Michael Collins.
- Health and Human Services update with Taw Foltz.
- Other business with Tribal Council.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

March 18

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jonathan W. Smith Sr. Roll call: Chief Jefferson Greene, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Wilson Wewa Jr., Chairman Jonathan W. Smith Sr., Alvis Smith III, James ‘Jim’ Manion. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Wil-

son.

- Early Childhood Education Compliance update with Sue Matters and Reona Trimble. Others present: Michele Stacona and Arlissa White.
- Tribal land status with Robert Brunoe.
- Warm Springs Community Action Team update with Chris Watson and staff.

Continued with tribal land status update with the S-T.

- Property discussion with Tribal Council.
- Kah-Nee-Ta update with Jim Souers, Kirk Hannah, Brett Fischer and Charles Jackson.
- Other business with Tribal Council:

‘Kalama Lane’ name change will be referred to the Culture and Heritage Committee.

• Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce vacancy was discussed.

• The March 19 Tribal Council meeting will be cancelled due to no quorum for the IRMP discussion. The Secretary-Treasurer will send out a notice.

Motion by Jim adding

April 23 meeting with the City of Bend on the April agenda (will be held in Bend). Second by Wilson. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, 5/0/0, Chairman not voting; Motion carried.

Motion by Alvis to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

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