

Willamette Falls Trust: fair tribal acces to the site has been an ongoing issue

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The governor put the trust on notice last week that the appropriation of the Oregon legislative session’s final days is in jeopardy.

“The governor supports the opportunity of creating public access to the natural wonder that is Willamette Falls, from both sides of the falls,” the governor’s office said in a statement.

“She is exercising her due diligence to understand more fully the use of these dollars and wants to hear more from all interested parties. She has been a supporter of creating public access to the falls in the past and is committed to dedicating public funding that builds that access in the most equitable, responsible manner possible.”

Tribal reaction

Robert Kentta is a trust board member and representative of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.



Second-largest waterfall in the U.S., Willamette Falls.

“The state’s investment is critical to the future of this site,” Mr. Kentta said.

“It will guarantee that all Oregonians and visitors have access to, and enjoy the beauty, grandeur, and historical cultural importance of Willamette Falls.”

Gov. Kotek’s predecessor, Gov. Kate Brown, is president of the Willamette Falls Trust. She also weighed in:

“There is now a once-in-a-century moment to restore the natural beauty of the site and open it as a spiritual, cultural and educational resource to future generations. We must take advantage of this moment,” Brown said.

The opportunity to purchase the property came

about because of the closure of West Linn Paper after 135 years of operations on the west bank of the Willamette.

Another mill, Blue Heron Paper, previously closed on the east bank of the river. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde bought the Blue Heron site in 2019. The Grand Ronde also obtained a state license to erect a ceremonial fishing platform at the falls.

Portland General Electric, partners with the Warm Springs tribes on the Pelton-Round Butte hydro complex, is currently suing the state over that license in U.S. District Court in Portland.

PGE seeks to force removal of the platform for safety reasons.

Helpline: ways to contact; a training coming up

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The Warm Springs OSU Extension Service helped with the project. In creating the displays the youth used ideas and words that best seem to capture the need of the helpline service. These poster displays will used locally, and provided to other organizations around the state.

There are a number of ways that a person can get in touch with the Youthline service. The phone number is 877-968-8491. Or text ‘Native’ to 839863; or chat

at theyouthline.org

Suicide prevention training

The Warm Springs Prevention team is presenting Suicide Prevention Training, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 21 at the old school cafeteria, 1150 Warm Springs Street.

Seating is limited to the first 30 individuals to sign-up. If you are working, please do not sign-up to participate until you have the approval of your supervisor. We look forward to

your participation and a full class.

To sign-up, contact LeMinnie Smith, Prevention team office manager, at: leminnie.s@wstribes.org

Please provide your name and email address. A confirmation email will be sent back to you. If your plans change, please let Prevention know as soon as possible so the paid training slot can be given to another employee. Any questions, contact Ron Hager at: ronald.hager@wstribes.org

Or call, 541-615-0038.

Come see Saddle Up: Tribal ranchers and rodeo life

Now on display at the Museum at Warm Springs is *Saddle Up*, highlighting the history and experiences of Warm Springs ranch families and the rodeo culture.

The museum show illustrates, through historic documents, art, objects, family interviews and photographs, the experiences of Warm Springs ranchers.

The show also looks at the economic and cultural transition from a way of life based on hunting, fishing, gathering of food on the land and trade to one based on cash.

Saddle Up is curated by museum curator and exhibition coordinator Angela Anne Smith.

In April, the museum was awarded \$7,500 from

Now On View!

“Saddle Up: Ranchers and Rodeo Life of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs”

Through Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025



One of two Ranching Ladies Beaded Bags, circa 1910-1926, included in the exhibition. Beadwork by Charlotte Edwards Pitt.

the Oregon State Capitol Foundation for the development of a digital version of *Saddle Up* that will be showcased on the Foundation’s website: oregoncapitol.com

And they will have a physical exhibit that will be on display

at the Oregon State Capitol.

Funding is also going toward a video that is currently in production under the direction of filmmaker, director, cinematographer and storyteller LaRonn Katchia.

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