

Letters to the editor

Great Pumpkins

Warm Springs Recreation this month will present the Spooktacular Great Pumpkin Party at the Community Center. The party will be on Wednesday, October 22. Carving begins at 5:30 p.m., and judging at 7. Categories are:

Best Jack. Scariest Sally. Creepiest Oogie Boogie. Zombiest Wolfman. Spookiest Sqwatch. The evening is for the whole family. For questions, please call Recreation at 541-553-3243.

Spooky Indian Nite Out

The Spooky Indian Nite Out and Drummers Jam session is coming up this month at the Community Center gymnasium. There will be potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. (bring your favorite dish), and the powwow at 6:30. The Nite Out will be on Monday, October 20.

There will be a Clown Dance contest, so bring your clown outfits. The evening is open to all drum groups, dancers and families. Master of ceremonies will be Captain Moody. For

more information call Recreation at 541-553-3243. This is an alcohol- and drug-free event.

Smart Reading volunteers at W.S. Academy

What if one hour of your week could help shape a child's future? Smart Reading at the Warm Springs Academy is calling on local residents to be that difference.

The Warm Springs Academy Afterschool program Smart Reading has a high need for community volunteers in Warm Springs in order to provide weekly reading support and free books to local students.

You can commit just one hour a week to read with a child or classroom in a local school. No special experience is required—just a love for books and a desire to help kids thrive. All training is provided. Smart Reading is Oregon's longstanding children's literacy nonprofit. As the organization kicks off its thirty-fourth year, it's seeking volunteers to bring the joy of reading to students

for the 2025-26 school year.

You can learn more or sign up at: smartreading.org

Or call 541-797-7726.

Prevention Fest, trainings this month

The Fourth-Annual **Prevention Fest** is coming up on Wednesday, October 15. The celebration event will be from 4-6:30 p.m. at the field outside of the Prevention building.

There will be s'mores, hot dogs, caramel apples, family fun and a pumpkin patch. Admission is free.

The Warm Springs Prevention team in October will also host an Adult Mental Health First Aid training, and two trainings for Non-violent De-escalation.

The trainings will be with Kevin Seyler, Behavioral Health consultant with the Portland Area Office, at the old elementary school cafeteria.

The Adult Mental Health First Aid training will be on Friday, October 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be served.

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 send her your name and email address. A confirmation email will be sent back to you. If your plans change, please let us 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.

The Nonviolent De-escalation trainings will be on Thursday, October 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, for a total of 10 hours of training. As above, seating is limited. Sign up information above also applies to the Nonviolent De-escalation trainings.

Tribal fishery

The four Columbia River tribes set the following fishery plan, and the Columbia River Compact has concurred. The zone 6 fishery is from the present time through 6 p.m. on Friday, October 3. Gear is set and drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Sanctuaries are the standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear.

The Spring Creek hatchery sanctuary is reduced to a 150-foot radius around the hatchery ladder. Allow-

able sales: Salmon any species may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open period are allowed to be sold after the period closes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool and sturgeon 43-54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.

MAC board

The Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District is accepting applications to fill one open position on its board of directors. The new appointee will serve through June 30, 2027.

The Aquatic Center board is comprised of a five-member board. Each member is elected by the registered voters of the district to serve a four-year term. Applicants must be registered voters and reside within the district's boundaries.

Interested candidates can download an information packet, which includes information about the district, position, and application/selection process, from the district's website: macrecdistrict.com/governance

Or by contacting Courtney Snead, executive

director, by email: executivedirector@macrecdistrict.com

The deadline to submit applications for this vacancy is Friday, November 7. For more information, please contact Courtney Snead at 541-475-4253 or via email.

First People's Celebration at OSU-Cascades

Oregon State University Cascades in Bend will host a **First Peoples Celebration** on Saturday, October 11.

This will be an event exploring and celebrating the history and culture of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Event activities are free to the public, and will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. in Bruckner Courtyard on the OSU-Cascades campus.

Activities include craft demonstrations, Native dancing and regalia showcase, a round dance with the Black Lodge Singers and more.

Flu vaccines

Now is the recommended time to get vaccinated to protect from influenza ahead of flu season this winter. The flu shot is available at the Warm Springs IHS Clinic. Walk-ins are available; or call 541-553-1196.

32nd Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit Submissions Request

Call For ART

Youth Artist: Louis Smith, Mt. Hood Tribes

2024 Judge's Choice: Traditional Category Elk Season beaded leggings by Naitipik Kuanate-Gabriel

2024 Judge's Choice: Contemporary Category Art by Naitipik Kuanate-Gabriel

Youth Artist: Nalle Eagleheart, Tolo-Spokane

2024 Judge's Choice: Wescos Weaving Design quilt by Bill Courtney

Upcoming art exhibition showcasing Tribal Member Adult and Youth art on display November 12, 2025, 5:30PM through March 7, 2026.

Deadline to submit art for judging (and possibility to win prize money for Adults): Tuesday, October 14th 5PM

Deadline for Display Purposes Only: Tuesday, October 21st 5PM

Art supplies for Youth will be provided, while supplies last, at the reception, November 12, 2025, 5:30PM-7:30PM

Contact: Angela Smith, Curator
email: angela@museumatwarmsprings.org
(541)553-3331 Ext. 412
<https://museumatwarmsprings.org/>

Applications available at The Museum at Warm Springs. Two applications are available. One for Youth (ages 17 and younger) and one for Tribal Member Adults (18 and older). An application form must be submitted with your artwork.
The Museum at Warm Springs, PO Box 909, 2189 Hwy 26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

Pioneer Rock & Monument
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Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memorium:
Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to **Spilyay Tymoo** should be addressed to:

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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00

\$15 million for the Stronghearts Native Helpline

StrongHearts Native Helpline has received \$15 million to continue serving the Native community nationwide.

The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Administration for Children and Families. The grant is for five years.

"This award will ensure that StrongHearts Native Helpline continues to operate as the first-ever national Indigenous Domestic Violence Hotline," said Lori Jump, Stronghearts director.

"We are grateful to receive the support from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Family Violence Prevention Services," Ms. Jump said.

"And we are humbled to continue serving our relatives when they need us the most."

Authorized by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, StrongHearts Native Helpline aims to help Native Americans impacted by domestic and sexual violence by weaving together a



STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

braid of safety, sovereignty, and support.

Trained advocates provide culturally appropriate support and advocacy with expertise in tribal cultures, sovereignty, and jurisdictional complexities.

In addition to providing direct support to survivors, StrongHearts will serve as a critical component of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Training and Technical Assistance Resource Network.

Through the network, StrongHearts will integrate the experiences of Native American communities impacted by domestic violence into nationwide efforts to expand the capacity of domestic violence programs, inform best practices, and strengthen services across both tribal and non-tribal systems.

Additionally, the hotline will continue to:

Maintain a comprehensive, up-to-date database of tribal and non-tribal service providers.

Ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and hearing impairments.

Collaborate with other national hotlines and tribal, state, and local partners.

Conduct public awareness campaigns across Indian Country and the United States.

"This investment ensures that Native survivors—many of whom live in rural or under-resourced areas—have access to 24/7 lifesaving support," said Administration for Children and Families acting assistant secretary

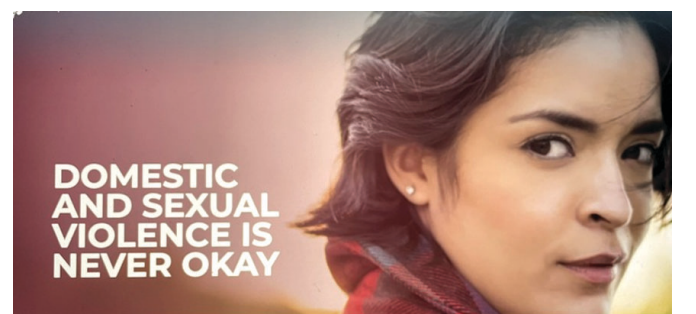
Andrew Gradison.

The investment exemplifies a commitment to advancing tribal-led solutions and addressing domestic violence in Indigenous communities.

"StrongHearts was created in a partnership between the National Indigenous Women's Resource and the National Domestic Violence Hotline," Lori Jump explained.

"American Indians and Alaska Natives experience some of the highest rates of violence across the nation and yet they were not reaching out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline for advocacy or support.

This realization inspired our parent organizations to take action and thus, StrongHearts was born."



Social Security transitions to electronic payments

Federal benefit payments are now primarily issued electronically, with paper checks being phased out in most cases. To prevent any disruption in payments, the Social Security Administration is reaching out to beneficiaries who currently receive paper checks and encouraging them to switch immediately to electronic payment options.

Additionally, the administration is no longer offering a temporary check option

when processing initial claims. Beneficiaries who request an exemption from the electronic payment requirement must file a waiver with the U.S. Treasury by calling 1-877-874-6347. SSA technicians are available to assist beneficiaries with this transition and to answer any questions.

There are two easy ways to receive federal benefit payments electronically:

- Direct deposit to a checking or savings account. Old-Age, Survivors, and Dis-

ability Insurance (OASDI) beneficiaries can use or sign up for a my Social Security online account to manage direct deposit information and access benefit details. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and international beneficiaries can call 1-800-772-1213 for assistance.

- Direct Express card, a safe and convenient prepaid debit card option for those without a bank account. To enroll, call 1-800-333-1795 or

visit: usdirectexpress.com

Please share this information with your clients and encourage those preparing for initial claims to set up bank accounts for direct deposit. This will ensure new beneficiaries receive their benefits securely and without interruption. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to those we serve. **Social Security Administration.**