

Letters to the editor

The year at the museum

The Museum at Warm Springs shared its most recent newsletter, highlighting the events and accomplishments of the previous 12 months. Highlights included the museum's three main exhibits of the year, starting with the Thirty-First Annual Warm Springs Tribal Member and Youth Art Show; then the summer *Saddle Up: Ranchers and Rodeo Life of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*; and ending with the Thirty-Second Annual Warm Springs Tribal Member and Youth Art Show, currently on display through early March.

Master Class, capital projects, new staff

The Columbia River Plateau Shell Dress Making Workshop in 2025 was a four-day, two-session 'Columbia River Plateau Shell Dress Making' master arts class workshop. The workshop was sponsored in partnership with the Museum at Warm Springs and the s'gwi gwi'altxw, House of Welcome Cultural Art Center at the Evergreen State College; with additional support from First Nations Development Institute and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Program Specialist Linley Logan, of the Tonawanda Seneca, from The House of Welcome Cultural Art Center at Evergreen State assisted in the administration of the workshop and shared stories with the participants.

Instructor Roberta Kirk of Warm Springs was the workshop's master instructor. She was assisted by her

granddaughter Tashina Eastman.

Museum activities and grants

The museum published its 2024 Annual Report in February. The total awarded from grants, according to the report, was a little more than \$1.8 million.

Roof replacement project. In the early spring of last year it became apparent that the museum needed a new roof as the current one hadn't been replaced since the building was constructed more than 30 years ago. The total cost was \$130,869.

Donors for the project included: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Ford Family Foundation, the Roundhouse Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Michael Templeton Estate, the museum's Board of Directors, Bill and Kathy Nicholson, and Doug and Jennifer Goe; and the Museum's Board of Regents, Anne Gordon; St. Charles Health System, Janet and Bob Frey, Kristan Knapp, Ofelia and Larry Svart, and Morgan Stanley, as a gift through Danielle and Sanders Nye.

Permanent Exhibit renewal project. In August the museum was awarded \$1.5 million in state funding for the renewal of its aging Permanent Exhibit. The funding officially kicks off the museum's capital campaign for the project, to update technical equipment and provide more information

on the progress of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The museum was one of 13 Oregon arts and cultural organizations that was awarded state funding, which will be distributed through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund. Museum staff worked in close cooperation with the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon—the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to advocating for public support of the arts, culture, heritage, and humanities—throughout the application and legislative process.

The \$1.5 million grant represents the 'half-way' point in overall funds needed for the realization of the project.

New museum staff. The museum suffered greatly during the Covid-19 pandemic, from late January, 2020 through early May 5, 2023. The museum saw lengthy building closures and loss of staff. Since 2019, largely due to the pandemic, the museum lost eight out of its 11 full-time staff employees.

In 2025, the museum added four new employees, which brought the staff total to seven with additional hires planned for 2026.

Annual membership drive.

The museum's annual

membership drive this past fall raised \$18,170. Memberships continued to come in after the drive had ended, and by late December the membership revenue was \$22,850. Membership totaled 193.

Regional and statewide cultural organizations and other entities helped spread the word about our membership drive and encouraged membership in the museum. Our collaborators included:

The Central Oregon Landwatch; the Deschutes Land Trust; the High Desert Museum; the Jefferson County Arts Association; and the Art Adventure Gallery. Also:

The Jefferson County Historical Society; KWSO 91.9 FM Warm Springs Radio; the Madras-Jefferson

Country Chamber of Commerce; the Old Mill District; Our Children Oregon; Redmond Chamber of Commerce and CVB; the Roundhouse Foundation; the Spilyay Tymoo; the Environmental Center and Visit Central Oregon.

Oregon Historical Society reciprocal membership program. The museum once again participated in the Oregon Historical Society's 2025 reciprocal membership program.

Museum members receive free admission for themselves and three guests of any age to a different Oregon attraction each month.

We were the featured attraction in July, and as a result saw a substantial increase in the number of visitors from across Oregon during that month. We will

participate in the program again in 2026.

Notes...

There is a **Senior Lunch** this Wednesday, January 7 at noon at the Warm Springs Senior Center dining area. Senior meals are free for all elders age 60 and older. Guests are welcome to join the seniors for lunch. Cost is \$1 for youth, \$5 for adults, or you can assist with clean-up after the meal.

Social Dance classes are Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Community Center Aerobics Room. Classes are open to all ages, and no sign-up is required. If you have questions, contact Deanie Johnson at Culture and Heritage.

New year wish from Papalaxsimisha



Papalaxsimisha

As we start a new year, our team would like to express our gratitude to our families, our community, our partners and our funders for the support, the love and the grace, as we navigated a tough 2025. We experienced loss, grief, hardships and

everything that comes with change in life. Although it had been a tough year, it was also a transformative and healing year for us, and we are excited to share and celebrate with all of you in the new year.

Our team took a little time to rest during Decem-

ber, to take care of ourselves, our families, and be in community during the holidays. One of our values is community care and self care. We thank you for your time, your presence and support throughout the year, from **Papalaxsimisha**.



KsKs Nukwashai Ayats Patlapa, ceremonial basket hat by Natalie Kirk, 2025 Judge's Choice-Traditional.

Council seeks to fill board, commission vacancies

The Tribal Council is looking to fill a number of positions on tribal boards of directors and a commission. The positions close by **5 p.m. on Friday, January 16**. You can apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to, by mail: Secretary-Treasurer/CEO, PO Box 455, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Or drop off at the administration building, addressed to S-T/CEO. Included with the letter and resume, please include a signed criminal and credit background check: Forms can be emailed or mail to you. Information will be confidential to the S-T/CEO.

Trial Credit: One tribal member, one non-member.

Tribal Employment

Rights Office commission: Four tribal member positions.

The Warm springs Indian Head Casino board of Directors: Three positions, tribal member and non-members.

Warm Springs Composite Board of Directors: Four positions, tribal members, and non-members.

Warm Springs Housing Authority Board of Com-

missioners: One position.

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises Board of Directors: Two positions, tribal member and non-member.

The Telco Board of Directors: Three positions, member (one position); and non-members (two positions).

Water Board: Two positions.



Blue Flamez logo by Terry Lynn Stradley, 2025 Judge's Choice-Traditional.

Spilyay Tymoo (Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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Notice to horse owners: Multi-State Equine Herpes Outbreak

from the Warm Springs office of OSU Extension

The Oregon Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian's Office is aware of an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus/ Equine Herpes Myelo-encephalopathy in horses that were at or associated with barrel racing and rodeo events in Texas and Oklahoma. There are no confirmed cases of EHV/EHM in Oregon at this time.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is coordinating with the affected states and the state Veterinarian's Office is currently awaiting to receive additional information

from Texas and Oklahoma on Oregon horses that may have been exposed.

If the office receives information on exposures from other states, they will contact those owners directly and issue quarantine orders to mitigate further spread of the disease.

Recommendations for horse owners:

If your horses traveled to Texas, Oklahoma, or other equine events where EHV exposure may have occurred, please contact a veterinarian for specific guidance regarding isolation and monitoring:

· Exposed horses should be isolated for 21 days after last known exposure.

· Appropriate isolation in-

cludes restricted access to other horses, avoiding the sharing of equipment or personnel, and utilization of protective barrier precautions.

· Exposed horses should be monitored twice daily for elevated temperature (above 101.5*), respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing), and for clinical signs consistent with equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (neurologic symptoms including inability to stand, difficulty walking, lethargy, and urine dribbling).

· If elevated temperature, respiratory signs, or EHM-compatible clinical signs are noticed, owners should contact their veterinarian immediately.

Equine herpes virus

EHV 1 is spread from horse to horse through contact with nasal discharge or spread as aero-



sol droplets. Infected horses may not show clinical signs of the virus but may still act as carriers. Horses can also contract the virus by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces such as stalls, water, feed, tack, and transport vehicles. People can spread the virus from horse to horse by contaminated hands and clothing. It is important for owners to watch for signs and symptoms and practice biosecurity measures.

Questions about horses or livestock? Contact OSU Extension's Scott Duggan at scottduggan@oregonstate.edu or call 541-447-6228