

Little League: Volunteers make the season

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There is a great reliance on adult volunteers in order to make the Little League season happen, Mr. Francis said. Each team, for instance, requires three adult volunteers: Two coaches and a manager. For 18 teams, that would be 54 volunteers. More help is still needed before the February 28 deadline, Edmund said.

Without enough volunteer adults, the number of teams would have to be reduced, disappointing for the players.

Anyone interested in helping out, there are various team divisions that would welcome the participation. Divisions are from t-ball for 4 and 5 year olds, up to the Senior divisions, in both baseball and softball.

The ongoing tradition

As community elders remember, the tradition of organized Warm Springs youth baseball—with official team line-ups, coaches, score- and win-loss record keeping—goes back decades, at least to the 1950s. And there are some interesting aspects to the early years: The role that the Warm Springs VFW, and BIA Roads played in starting the very first league. And the fact that in 1963 the Warm Springs Minors team—the 11- and

12-year-olds—won the state tournament, held that year in Astoria—even early on, clearly a tradition to be taken seriously.

As a note: The coaches of the Championship 1963 Warm Springs team were Dick Souers and Ed Spino, both of BIA Roads; plus a young Frank Smith, age 13 at the time, who was also playing that year in the Warm Springs Babe Ruth League.

As Mr. Smith recalls, the first Warm Springs youth baseball leagues were in the 1950s. Members of the Warm Springs Veterans of Foreign Wars organized the program. There were PeeWee teams—the 11- and 12-year-olds—; and four Babe Ruth League teams for older kids. The adult organizers and coaches were veterans who had served during World War II, Mr. Smith recalls.

Some of these gentlemen were Alvin Smith, who after military service became manager of Warm Springs BIA Roads; and Milan Smith Sr., BIA Roads roller operator. And Elmer ‘Sheriff’ Quinn and Cy Katchia, who both were BIA Roads Surveyors. And Mr. Ed Spino, heavy equipment operator. Also in the early years, Russell Bobb started the youth minors league.

To give an idea of how things

have changed since the early days: The ball fields were located where the Pi-Ume-Sha powwow grounds are now. The current Community Center was not there yet. In its place was the community barn. There was a creek with a wooden bridge in the area of the Tenino-Hollywood Boulevard intersection. The adult baseball field was on the land that is now the clinic.

Frank Smith played from a very young age up to his late teens. He was a pitcher, like his brother Claude Jr.

Frank has passed the baseball tradition on to his son Ty Smith, who lives in Ohio and earned a Coach of the Year award for his work with youth teams in the Columbus area. Ty’s son David plays in an adult summer league, and daughter Tashina plays softball at the University of Ohio.

Though many things have changed around the reservation since the early days of youth baseball, some things are the same: The young players are still having fun and learning new skills throughout the season. And another thing: Frank Smith—sixty years after he helped coach that state championship team—is still coaching, assisting this year’s teams and players with baseball techniques and knowledge.

— Dave McMechan

Calling for submissions: *Voices of the River* articles, art

Confluence is pleased to announce the group is accepting submissions for the second volume of the print journal *Voices of the River*. Writing can include fiction, creative non-fiction, research essays and poetry. Art pieces also welcome.

Voices of the River is a journal that explores the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. Some potential themes include growth, healing, and community.

Confluence is also seeking a cover artist for the second issue of *Voices of the River*.

In addition to the cover, the successful person will design with embellishments the page separators that match the vision for the cover, which can be used for scene breaks in articles. This is a \$3,500 contract.

The cover artist should be Indigenous and preferably have ties to the Columbia River region. Please apply by emailing Lily Hart with a brief biography, a brief of one paragraph stating your interest. Feel free to email with any questions prior to applying.

The deadline is March 15. See the website: confluenceproject.org

A call to artists for Pathways

The Poeh Cultural Center is pleased to announce its third annual Pathways Indigenous Arts Festival. The festival will be held at Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino in August.

Pathways has become a premier destination for visitors and collectors to discover vibrant and top-quality Indigenous artwork in diverse genres, created by well-respected artists from traditional Pueblo potters to contemporary emerging artists.

The Poeh Cultural Center is committed to showcasing exceptional work from across Indian Country. What makes Pathways unique is that the festival is the first satellite art market, during Indian Market weekend, to be held on

tribal land.

Honoring its commitment to providing opportunities and services to Indigenous artisans, the Poeh Cultural Center is adding approximately 100 booths to this year’s Pathways due to popular demand.

As is a tradition, the first 20 outdoor single booths are free and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Elder and disabled artists can apply in person at the Poeh Cultural Center or can call 505-455-5041.

Further details on programming and music performers will be released in the coming months. For more information and to sign up for the Poeh newsletter, please visit poehcenter.org/pathways/

‘Native Sport’ opens at Eastern Oregon

A Native American exhibit—*Native Sport*—is now on display at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande. *Native Sport* focuses on Native American athletes, highlighting regional tribal members.

The exhibit is a collaboration between Eastern Oregon University and the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture. The exhibit is on display at the univeristy Quinn Coliseum through mid March.

“It has been an honor to work with the Josephy Center and EOU Athletics to bring the exhibit to the EOU Campus and to share Native Sports with our community,” said EOS professor Linda Reed-Jerofke. *Native Sport* opened this week,



Native Sport features outstanding indigenous athletes.

as welcomed by Eastern Oregon Native American Studies, EOU Athletics, the EOU Center for Di-

versity Equity Inclusion and Belonging, and the EOU Anthropology and Sociology program.

Funding for cost-cutting home energy upgrades

More resources are available in 2023 to help people cut their energy use and lower their energy bills. The federal tax credits are for upgrades that make homes more energy efficient and comfortable.

The credits are part of the Inflation Reduction Act, which makes it easier for people to cut their energy use.

The new tax credits, together with cash incentives already offered by Energy Trust of Oregon for both electric and natural gas upgrades, mean utility customers in Oregon can save more on items and equipment that may lead to a significant reduction in energy costs.

In addition to the energy efficiency tax credits, the Inflation Reduction Act also updated and extended tax credits for investments in renewable energy and battery storage systems.

As of January 1, federal tax credits are available for the following upgrades, which can also be combined with incentives from Energy Trust for customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista. The credits are as follows:

Home insulation: Up to \$1,200; or up to \$1.50 per square foot. Windows: Up to \$600; or up to \$1.50 per square foot depending on efficiency rating.

Heat pump: Up to \$2,000. Central air conditioning: Up to \$600. Natural gas furnace: Up to \$600.

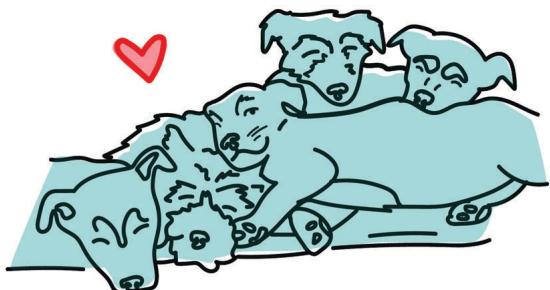
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