

Health Commission outreach



Yvonne Iversen/Spilyay

The members of the Joint Health Commission held a community meeting on December 15 at the Community Center. The team conducted an electronic survey with the community members and staff that were present. They then presented data collected about the health programs operating in Warm Springs. Commission members pictured from left: Health Martinez, commission secretary; Carol Prevost, Dr. Miles Rudd, Caroline Cruz, commission chairperson; Thomas Seidl, and Jim Sizemore. (Not pictured is vice chairperson Dr. "Bub" Beemer.)

IHS encourages vaccination

Dr. Rudd and the nurses at IHS are urging people 19 and older to get their vaccination shots for tetanus, diphtheria (Td), or tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap).

The vaccine is administered by injection to the upper arm.

Public health officials in Oregon are concerned over the increase in the number of patients who have developed pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough.

Since the beginning of the year, 27 cases have been confirmed in Jackson County. Cases have also been reported in Clark County.

Whooping cough is an upper respiratory infection caused by bacteria. Early symptoms are much like cold symptoms. The cough becomes violent over the course of two weeks.

Tetanus, or lockjaw, can lead to tightening in the jaw muscle so the victim cannot open his mouth or swallow.

Diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat and can lead to breathing problems among other serious health risks.

Two cases of pertussis have been reported in Eastern Oregon.

— by Duran Bobb



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Hatchery fish quick to hurt reproduction in wild

(AP) - Oregon State University scientists have found that it takes only a single generation for steelhead trout raised in fish hatcheries to pass along bad genetic traits to populations in the wild.

The findings are the latest in a growing body of evidence showing the downside to hatcheries as a way to rebuild threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead runs.

Studies of Hood River steelhead had previously pinpointed declining reproduction success by hatchery fish in the wild, but the latest research shows it is a result of domestication of young fish in hatcheries that can be transmitted in breeding with wild fish, not from a temporary environmental effect, said Mark Christie, a genetic researcher and the study's lead author.

"Now we know definitely that it's adaptation to captivity and it happens in a single generation, which is amazing from

an evolutionary standpoint," Christie said.

The findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, raise concern about programs to supplement wild populations of salmon and steelhead by releasing young hatchery fish near spawning grounds, the paper reported. Unlike conventional hatcheries, supplementation programs try to integrate the hatchery populations into wild populations, many protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Supporters of hatchery supplementation programs caution against concluding that supplementation is bad. Tribes use it to help fulfill government promises to sustain tribal fisheries after Columbia Basin dams were built and in treaties signed in the mid-1800s.

The productivity declines in Hood River steelhead are among the sharpest of many salmon and steelhead runs stud-

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Peter Galbreath
CRITFC fish scientist

ied. And damage from dams and habitat destruction likely have bigger effects on productivity and returns, hatchery supporters say.

"It's important to remember that hatchery supplementation is a response to declining or depressed salmon populations, not the cause," said Peter Galbreath, a fishery scientist with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Supplementation is necessary "to rebuild populations at desired levels while we await, prob-

ably naively, rectification of the source problems," he said.

The tribes say they can manage hatcheries to reduce domestication problems, and have advocated doing so for two decades. Recent successes with Snake River fall chinook indicate carefully run programs can boost numbers of wild fish, they say.

Oregon State Professor Michael Blouin, who participated in the study, said it should lead scientists to focus on what's going wrong in hatcheries. If crowded tanks prove to be a key problem, for example, hatcheries could reduce fish numbers or build more tanks, he said.

"In my opinion, the question of whether genetic change occurs in hatcheries has been answered," Blouin said. "If we could quit arguing about that and find out why, then we're all on the same team again."

News from Indian Country

Tribe's online lending venture booms

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - An Indian reservation in Montana may seem an unlikely place to borrow a quick \$600.

But the Chippewa Cree tribe says its new online lending company has already given out more than 121,000 loans this year at interest rates that can reach a

whopping 360 percent.

As more states pass laws to rein in lenders who deal in high-interest, short-term loans, Indian tribes are stepping in to fill the void. The Internet lets Plain Green Loans reach beyond Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation, while tribal immunity has al-

lowed the Chippewa Cree to avoid restrictions set by states.

Plain Green Loans CEO Neal Rosette says the loans are a resource for people who can't or won't borrow from banks, and they give the poverty stricken tribe a steady revenue stream.

Former E. Idaho police officer awarded \$717,000

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) - A former officer with the Fort Hall Police Department who was injured when his patrol vehicle was hit by another vehicle has been awarded \$717,000 by a Pocatello jury in a lawsuit over an American Indian tribe's underinsured motorist insurance policy.

But Nicolas Garcia says he wishes he was still working, rather than receiving the insurance payout.

"I would rather have continued to be a police officer than to have those numbers," he said. "I would rather be out there on those streets with my brothers in blue than have that money. Every day I woke up excited

about going to work. Every day it was exciting to get ready to go in as it was that very first day."

The Idaho State Journal reports that the jury last week awarded Garcia \$210,757 in lost wages, \$206,179 for future lost wages, and \$300,000 for non-economic damages.

In September 2007, Garcia was driving home in his patrol car when he was hit by another car that failed to yield at a stop sign. He suffered a career-ending injury to his back, which had already undergone a previous fusion surgery.

After the crash, Garcia underwent additional fusions with the goal of returning to work, but those procedures weren't

enough to get him back on patrol. "I am thankful I am walking," he said. "I was having trouble walking, sitting, standing, laying. Carrying a gallon of milk would hurt."

Garcia's case involved the underinsured motorist who hit him, a worker's compensation claim, and Granite State Insurance, which is the underinsured policy provider for Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Garcia's attorney, Joel Beck, a partner at Ruchti & Beck in Pocatello said the jury was asked to decide if Garcia deserved compensation for lost wages, future lost wages and non-economic damages.



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