

# Senior citizens asked to identify concerns



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

**MAIN PRIORITIES**—George Schneider and Buck Jones discuss their priorities for expanded senior services if Title VI funds are appropriated.

## Wildlife meeting rescheduled

Due to recent deaths, the wildlife public meeting had to be postponed. The meeting will be rescheduled for the week of June 18-22. Signs will be posted as to the exact location, day and time of the meeting. The tribal news release will also

have the exact location of the meeting as well as the Warm Springs Report on radio station KRCO.

## Exams must be scheduled at clinic

The Warm Springs IHS Clinic has received questions about, and many requests for physicals recently, especially with summer coming and students and others applying for season work.

All physical exams are by scheduled appointment only. Anyone wishing an exam should call as soon as possible so they can be scheduled at their convenience.

All people over 35 years requesting physicals need to schedule two appointments. The initial visit is for routine laboratory studies, an EKG, and any other tests that may be warranted. This will be scheduled early in the morning so that blood tests can be done before the patient eats.

The second appointment will be approximately one week later so that the laboratory tests and EKG can be reviewed as needed by specialists. Any problems that are found can then be more fully evaluated when the patient returns for completion of the exam.

Physical exams for people under 35 years whether for work or school, can be completed on one day. However they do need to be scheduled in advance.

People wanting to begin Antabuse, or people who want an exam prior to referral to an alcohol treatment program need to check with Warm Springs Alcohol Treatment Program and schedule lab studies or exams through that office.

Senior citizens have been asked to identify areas in which they would like to see their services expanded. Title VI funding, if approved, would allow Indian seniors additional funds for expansion of present services or inception of new services.

Currently tribal funding and Title III, the Older Americans Act, is the source of program funds. Other specialized funding is appropriated through such low-income programs as Low Energy Assistance.

At a meeting June 5, Seniors were asked to list their priorities should funding become available. Nutrition was rated as first by Seniors. The nutrition program now in operation provides meals two times a week for Seniors. This would continue either under Title III funding or Title VI, if granted.

Transportation and Respite care is rated next in importance. Seniors enjoy outings and available transportation enables them to get where they want to go.

Respite care would provide relief for families who find it necessary to care for an elderly family member at home. It is an

alternative to a nursing home where the elder can stay at home.

In-home services was appealing to seniors along with medical assistance outside the IHS service. An information referral system which would educate seniors on available funding opportunities, activities in the community and answer their inquiries was also favored.

An advocate for seniors, hearing aids, home repairs, a foot care clinic and a foster home/reservation nursing home system were mentioned, also.

The possibility of a \$50,000 to \$60,000 grant would allow these new services. Some Title VI funding would replace tribal funding which could then be used for other purposes.

"Hopefully the funding will allow us to expand and have some new programs. That's the intent," comments social services director Gayle Rodgers.

Grant application for Title VI is due June 29 but results will not be known until October. Seniors may submit their ideas for senior service expansion to Gayle Rodgers.

## Workers honored as home closes

The passing from one stage to another can be said of the transferring of the care of children from the Vern Jackson Home to emergency shelter homes within the community. With the closing of the home came a time to give tribute to the tribal employees who were responsible for the 24-hour care, seven days a week throughout the year. Honored were Mary Ross, Lucy Smith, Lucy Miller, Georgette "Jets" Clements and all of those workers who made it possible for the Home to remain in operation.

Bob Jackson, Health Branch manager, said it was the "good stable relationships given by the workers to the children, that is shown by the growth of each child." He praised the workers for giving to the children the ability to meet the immediate needs as well as the long term needs of the children. He stated the Home could only

be termed a success but it was time for the program to move on to the next step which is a new approach-putting the children in shelter homes. The shelter homes are located within the community and some of the Vern Jackson Home workers will be providing shelter homes for children 12 years and under.

Ed Manion, Enterprise Manager, told the workers he knew they did good work but that the new plan is one that will improve children's services. He expressed appreciation for what each worker had contributed to the children and to the Home.

Each of the four workers were presented a yellow rose by Arlene Boileau, Path Foster Care worker, because the yellow rose represented friendship and joy. She expressed that each and every one of the workers would find a special job because of

who they were; they, themselves were special people.

Mildred Kirk, also a Path Foster Care worker, said that each of the workers worked weekends and holidays. The workers took the time, had the patience, learned the skills and gave the understanding to become top-rate workers with children.

It was a time to express to the workers, both past and present, that there were no words to express the love and respect felt by Dale Cochran, Youth Services Director. The community had every right to feel pride in the workers because it was a tough job, but they never faltered in giving of themselves to the children.

Each of the four women received a gift for their participation in the molding of youngsters in a time of need and growth. It was a ceremony of sadness but also one of admiration for each worker.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno-Baker

With the closing of the Vern Jackson home the following workers were given gifts of appreciation for their work. Pictured (left to right) are Georgette "Jets" Clements, Mary Ross, Lucy Miller and Lucy Smith.

## Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News



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