

Vocational Rehabilitation Program shares progress

Improvement in success rates shows double the clients completing the program with 100% self-employment.

By Selena Boise
Spilyay Tymoo

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program of Warm Springs is in their fourth year of funding through a five-year grant. The department has seen changes in areas that produced a turnaround of clients completing the program successfully.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program opened its doors in Warm Springs in October 1993, offering assistance to disabled individuals who needed employment.

Assistance included finding a job site, maintaining employment and connecting to other programs that will also assist the client.

Funding was fully available until 1998-99 when the funding was pulled. At that time carryover was used to fund the program.

In 1999 the groundwork began on a five-year grant, which became available in October of

that year. Native American Actor, Jim Warne, came to Warm Springs to write the grant for Vocational Rehabilitation.

In the first year of the grant the success rate of clients closing and becoming 100 percent employed was at seven per year. In the second year 30 clients were employed, and in the third year 45.

Employees pulled together their efforts as a team and came up with ways to change the programs negative aspects and turn them around.

"The success rate, as a result of these changes, was one of the highest across the nation," says Corina Brunoe, Vocational Rehabilitation director.

They began to focus on individuals who were serious about overcoming hurdles that stood in the way of employment. To determine a client's commitment to becoming successful the program limited funds until clients followed through with requirements of the program. Funds were released when the requirements were met.

They also expanded the service delivery area, and opened it up to all Indians, not just Warm Springs, thereby serving

more of the Native American population in need of assistance.

Before the intake process begins all clients must attend an orientation. Orientations are held each Monday at 3 p.m. at the Vocational Rehabilitation office.

The intake process consists of five steps:

1) show proof of tribal affiliation, 2) show proof, by a doctor or psychiatrist that a disability exists, 3) claim has identified substantial impediments—physical, emotional, 4) residency is on or within 65-mile radius, and 5) show that Voc Rehab will lead to employment.

Once these intake steps are complete a counselor is assigned to the client. The counselors are willing to meet at the client's homes if they do not have transportation.

The counselor and the client will set up an Individual Plan of Employment (IPE).

This will outline the possible barriers and objectives to becoming employed. It will also include goals, training plan, resume writing, and tapping into other programs.

The services provided assist clients in becoming employed by



Left to right are Vocational Rehabilitation staff: Corina Brunoe, Director; Leanna Blueback, counselor trainee, Estomina Made, Secretary, and Elizabeth Wolfe, counselor. Not pictured Cecil Blue, counselor.

helping pay for training, learning skills, and on-the-job training.

They also assist in maintaining employment by paying for childcare, necessary tools, clothes, and additional skills for the job.

Once a client is fully employed they are considered successful by the program and their case is closed. However, there

is a 90-day follow up. A client has 12 months after the day of closure to come back.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program follows the drug free policy and gives random UAs for everyone in the program.

Outreach is a new aspect of the program. The outreach program will help people living off the reservation obtain, or maintain employment.

Last week Brunoe and counselor Elizabeth Wolfe traveled to Celilo Village to assess the needs there, and possibly set up a network. Currently the Vocational Rehabilitation program is continuing to reach out to people who are unaware the program exists. The program is seeking a job developer to identify employers for clients, and is looking for a grant writer for funding.

Twenty-five years ago

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New pipes being flushed, tested

Forty thousand feet of new pipe in the Simnasho-Schoolie water system are being pressure tested and flushed in preparation for hook-ups, said Don Rohde of Tenneson Engineering.

Households in the drought-affected rural area should be getting a steady supply of Beaver Creek water by the end of June, Rohde said.

Since Tuesday or Wednesday of last week, water has been pumped from wells into the

mains to flush dirt out of the six-inch PVC pipes and to point out possible leaks or weak points in the system. When the testing and any repairs are completed, the water will be chlorinated, the metal reservoirs painted, sand-blasted and the system will be ready for operation.

Extras needed for TV series

A photo (casting) session for the television series, "How the West Was Won," with James Arness, will be held in the campus area across from the old agency building on May 22, at 10 a.m. Those auditioning

should be dressed in Indian regalia or native costumes if available.

Filming for this series will begin Monday, June 12 at Bend and will be shown after January of next year.

Student poet selected for seminar

For Madras High School senior Liz Woody, going back to school this summer will be an honor and not a chore. Liz will be one of twelve students attending a five-day workshop at Lewis and Clark College in late June—an opportunity provided by the Oregon Arts Foundation.

The seminar, which will give students a chance to work with two published writers, was the prize offered in a statewide creative writing competition held last month for all high school students in Oregon.

Liz submitted three poems at the last minute and was genuinely surprised to receive word of her selection a few weeks later. Believing that competition shouldn't be part of writing, the talented young writer entered because of the unique opportunity to work with professionals of such caliber.

4-H camp staff needed

The OSU Extension office is hiring people willing to work at the 4-H Camp at Peter Pasture July 20-26, and July 27 to August 2. This is an opportunity for someone to earn money and be a role model to the youth of Warm Springs. Employees must have an enthusiastic attitude and loads of energy, and a joy for teaching.

There will be a camp staff training Saturday, July 19, 2003 before the two camp sessions begin.

Positions available are: cooks helpers, girl's camp counselors, male camp counselors, sweathouse leader for girls, sweathouse leader for boys, teachers of all kinds (beadwork, drum making).

You will camp in the woods and best of all receive a camp t-shirt.

Contact Arlene or Minnie at OSU Extension 553-3238 for more information.

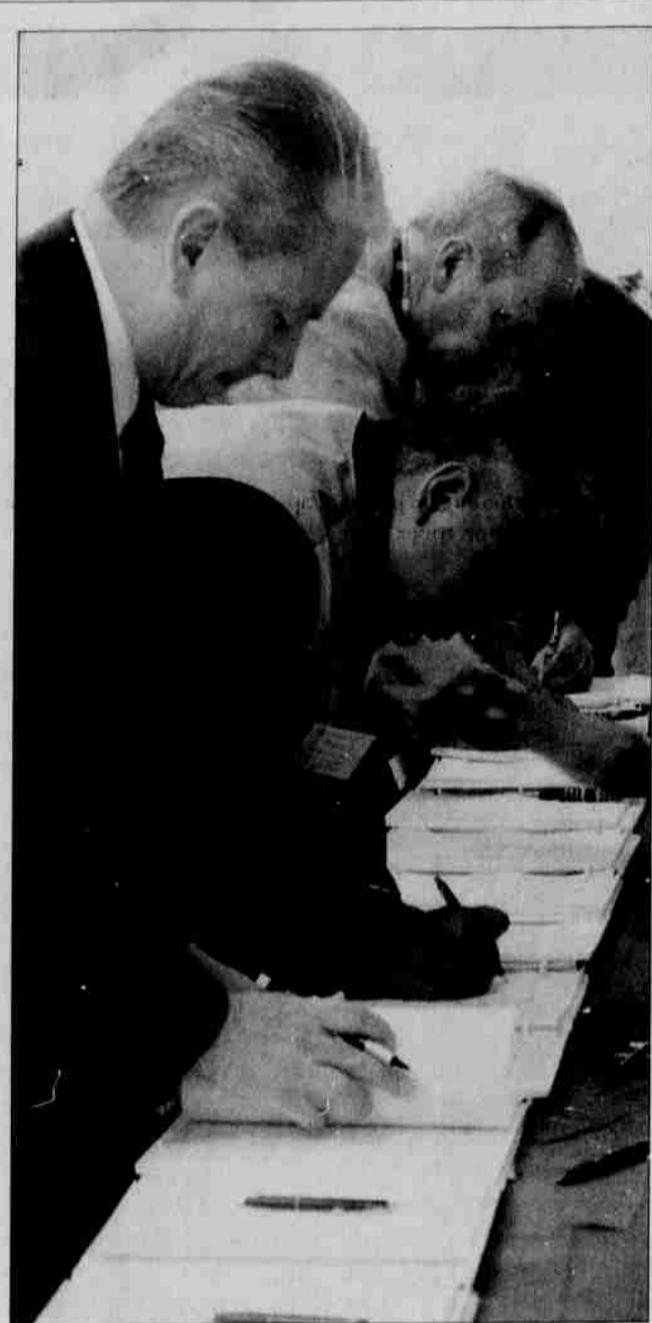


Photo by Trish Stradley-Phifer

Signing ceremony

In the photograph, Gary Larson and Bobby Brunoe (from left) were among the lang management representatives who signed the memorandum of understanding. Also signing for the Confed-

erated Tribes was Olney Patt Jr., chair of the Tribal Council. Larson, supervisor of the Mount Hood National Forest, was a key person in developing the MOU, said Brunoe.

Salmon: BPA wants to cut \$100 million

(Continued from page 1)

The Corps of Engineers owns and operates the 31-dam federal Columbia River dam power system; and the BPA markets and sells the energy generated by the dams.

The BPA wants to cut over \$100 million per year from projects that are considered high priority fish projects by an independent science panel, and the four treaty tribes, said Sampson.

The tribes have adopted successful salmon restoration projects in the basin, he said. Funding for these projects must be maintained and increased for the benefit of the fish, said Sampson.

The Fisheries Service opinion that the judge invalidated dates back to 2000. The 16 organizations opposed to the opinion filed their complaint in federal court in May of 2001.

Sampson said his hope is that the judge's ruling will result in a scientifically sound opinion by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

"Hopefully, the Fisheries Service will get the picture and make this its last trip to the drawing board to re-do the biological opinion," said Sampson.

Remember to vote by Tuesday, May 20.

Quaid seeking school board position

Tribal member Julie Quaid is seeking a position on the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors. The school district board currently has representation by two tribal members, Jeff Sanders and Jim Manion.



Julie Quaid

Ballots must be turned in by Tuesday, May 20. Quaid, running against Tammy Ellenburg, Mary Jo Deuel and Mike McHane, is director of Warm Springs Early Childhood Education.

Manion chose not to seek re-election to the board this year.

Two positions on the school board, with a total of eight candidates, are up for election on May 20.

Spilyay Tymoo

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Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan
Management Successor: Selena T. Boise
Reporter/trainer: Shannon Keaveny
Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

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Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to: Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761

(541) 553-1644 or 553-3274
FAX No. (541) 553-3539

E-Mail: spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org

Forum focuses on drug problem

There will be a workshop fourm next week on the problem of methamphetamine in the community.

The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, at the library annex building in Madras.

Dr. Jack Stump will conduct the workshop. Dr. Stump is an emergency physician at Southwest Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, Wash.

He has practiced emergency medicine since 1989. He spent several years in Southern Oregon, where he witnessed the effects of methamphetamine on Oregon communities.

This prompted him to begin speaking about methamphet-

amine, and to develop expertise in the recognition, evaluation and treatment of the drug.

There is no cost to attend the

workshop. No one under the age of 14 should attend, due to the graphic nature of content and discussion.

Calendar

Boarding school orientation in Warm Springs will be on Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, at the Education Building top floor training room. Come and boarding school representatives from Chemawa Indian School, Riverside Indian School, and Sherman Indian High School. This is also an opportunity to schedule parent conferences with school representatives. Deadline date for school applications is July 31. For more information call Higher Education at 553-3311.

Diabetes education classes are being offered at the **Diabetes Breakfast gatherings** held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Topics this month: Planning meals, and stocking the cupboard, May 27.