



Spilyay Tymoo

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Kidney transplant a success

Squiemphen-Yazzie says she immediately felt better after surgery

By Shannon Keaveny
Spilyay Tymoo

Terry Demezas always had a fond spot in his heart for Warm Springs.

For years he'd been making trout fishing trips to the area, passing by Priscilla Squiemphen-Yazzie's ranch near Highway 26 on his way from Portland.

So when he read an *Oregonian* newspaper article about Priscilla Squiemphen-Yazzie's struggle to find a new kidney, something hit home.

"Because I was familiar with Warm Springs and the family really sounded neat, I wanted to help," said Demezas.

The article detailed her and her husband's fight to raise two children, work for the tribal government, and run a ranch while she suffered from the debilitating Sjogren's disease.

The disease attacks the body's moisture-producing glands and caused her kidneys to fail in March of last year.

Meanwhile, frequent time-consuming and expensive trips to Bend were required for kidney dialysis.

The family tried to make ends meet and financially plan for expenses associated with a kidney transplant, even though they didn't know where the kidney would come from. They held taco sales and other fundraising events.

Because Demezas was so moved by the article, he did something that is rare.

He offered his kidney to someone he'd never met before. Squiemphen-Yazzie received a phone call informing her of the generous offer.

"At first I thought, 'Is this guy sane?' And he is. People just don't do nice things like that very often out of the blue," said Squiemphen-Yazzie of her reaction to Demezas' offer to donate her a kidney.

After testing, doctors announced the two patients' tissues and blood were a match. Demezas, who is a nurse, felt he was healthy enough that he didn't really need two kidneys. According to the Urology Department at the Oregon Health and Science University, a normal person only uses 10 percent of his or her two kidneys. A living donor will have 70 to 80 percent of the total function of his or her kidney back just three weeks after the surgery.

A little over two weeks ago, Demezas and Squiemphen-Yazzie simultaneously underwent surgery at the OHSU hospital in Portland. The actual kidney transplant took about five hours and the removal of the kidney from Demezas' body took about one and a half hours.

Squiemphen-Yazzie's body accepted the kidney right away, and Demezas is at home recovering quickly.

"The experience of donating my kidney was one of the highlights of my life," said Demezas.

"I think it is both our wishes that Priscilla can return to a normal life," he added.

Demezas says he had something like a vision a few years before that inspired him to join the Oregon Donor Program.

After word was received that Demezas wanted to donate a kidney to Squiemphen-Yazzie, she called him and invited him to her ranch home for coffee. In Oregon it is illegal to donate an organ anonymously.

The two discovered that not only did Terry have the same name as her brother but they were also born in the same year.

See NEW KIDNEY on page 3

Tribes to expand on fish study

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Fish from the Columbia River basin contain chemical contaminants from pollution.

This can pose a health risk to people who eat large amounts of the fish.

By tradition and culture, Indian people eat eight to 10 times more fish than non-Indians.

So tribal population faces a

greater health risk from the chemicals in the fish.

But how should people of the Warm Springs Reservation react to this information?

Should they stop eating as much fish as they have in the past, and rely more on non-traditional foods?

What if these non-traditional alternative foods also contain unhealthy chemicals?

The Confederated Tribes are mov-

ing forward with a study that will provide answers to these and other important health questions.

More specific study

The information about chemicals in fish from the Columbia basin comes from studies conducted over the past decade by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRTFC).

In conducting its study, CRTFC took samples of fish from 24 locations

throughout the basin. They tested for 132 chemicals and found 92.

Some of these chemicals are cancer causing. They come from many sources: industry and agriculture in the basin, the Hanford nuclear area, Bradford Island, etc.

The Confederated Tribes are planning a study that will in some ways be more specific than the CRTFC study, and in other ways more broad.

See FOOD TESTING on page 10

Pi-Ume-Sha Procession



In the Pi-Ume-Sha Parade, 2003 Pi-Ume-Sha Junior Court Queen Nathana Jim rides with Roberta Kirk and Keeyana Yellowman, Little Miss Warm Springs 2002-2003.

Crews kept busy with many fires

By Ashley Aguilar
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs fire fighters were kept very busy during the Fourth of July, the time of year when human caused fires are at their highest.

There were a total of 33 fires on the reservation on July the Fourth.

A total of 10.4 acres burned, according to Warm Springs BIA Fire Management.

Fire and police personnel were also kept busy patrolling and making sure the holiday was a safe one.

Meanwhile, fire officials are asking that people be extremely cautious, and be aware that this fire season is a hazardous one on the reservation.

The officials say the fire season this year looks above average, with nasty conditions and heavy grass crop. Fire Management is hoping to lower the amount of fires this year.

Since 70 percent of all fires are human caused, Fire Management and Forestry are attempting to lower the numbers by assigning contractors to be on the watch for fires.

Fire watch is one of the many ways fires are reported and prevented from getting out of hand.

In related news: Four fire fighters from Warm Springs have been working on the Davis fire near LaPine.

Tribal census moving forward

The tribes are planning in early fall to conduct a census on the reservation.

There had been talk of conducting the census during the summer, but fall could produce a more accurate count, said Jolene Atencio, tribal comprehensive planner.

This is true, she said, because fewer people, mainly students, will

likely be moving and changing their address during the fall.

The tribal census, funded by federal grant, is necessary because a significant number of residences on the reservation may have gone uncounted during the 2000 U.S. Census.

Atencio said that as many as 200 housing units on the reservation may have been missed in the U.S. Census.

Having an accurate population estimate is important for the tribes, because grant and other funding, such as transportation money, is based on population. An incorrect, low population estimate would mean the tribes would be at an unfair disadvantage in competing for funding. For this reason Atencio said she is hoping for cooperation on the census project from the community.

Great day for a parade

The Fourth of July was a sunny and warm day.

The weather was perfect for a parade through Warm Springs, followed by the barbecue and kids' games at the community center.

In the photo, Lynden Harry (left) and Jiana Smith-Francis show their patriotic spirit during the July 4 parade on Friday afternoon.

Juliane Smith (at back) is providing the steering and power for this parade entry.



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