

Health and Wellness Center celebrates 10 years



The staff of the Warm Springs Indian Health Services clinic will host an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

David McMechan/Spilyay

The Warm Springs Indian Health Services Health and Wellness Center is marking its Ten Year Anniversary. To celebrate the event, the center will host an open house – with the theme of “Past, Present and Future” – on Wednesday, Jan. 28. The opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m., with speakers to

follow until 10 a.m. The clinic will be hosting a health fair throughout the day.

Speakers include master of ceremonies Captain Moody; clinic director Russ Alger; a representative of Tribal Council, and from Health and Welfare.

The health fair will be the biggest the clinic has ever presented. There will be 25 booths, representing all of the clinic departments, plus presentations on how the clinic has developed and changed over the years, and booths on many health-related topics.

Clinic awarded for innovation

The staff of the Warm Springs Indian Health Services Health and Wellness Center received national recognition for work done in 2003.

The entire clinic staff received recognition through the annual IHS National Director's Award.

A delegation from the clinic traveled to Rockville, Maryland to accept the award.

Last year the clinic staff worked at upgrading the patient data collection system. “The whole Health and Wellness Center was responsible for implementing the new system,” said Russ Alger, clinic director.

Part of the system improvement involved the implementation of a computer program called Patient Care Component Plus.

The system records patient visits to the clinic, combining the patient's health data and billing information in a customizable form.

The Warm Springs center was one of the first in Indian Country to adopt this program, said Alger.

For its work, the staff was recognized by the award for “outstanding performance, dedication and commitment to



David McMechan/Spilyay

Russ Alger and clinic secretary Liana Tom

The staff was recognized for “outstanding performance, dedication and commitment to the mission of the IHS.”

the mission of the Indian Health Service.”

The clinic staff has also played a key part in the development of many medical forms used throughout Indian Coun-

try. The forms include forms for diabetes foot care, an ambulatory encounter form, physical examination, pharmacy, renal clinic, elder and women's care.

Along with the rest of the clinic staff, the Warm Springs business office also received the Portland Area IHS Director's Award. This award was for exceptional performance in collecting revenue for the center from Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance.

25 years ago this week

From the January 19, 1979 edition of Spilyay Tymoo.

HUD, Housing Authority sued by contractor

Three local housing officials were not surprised when they received summons from the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

This was their formal notification that the Warm Springs Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were being sued to the tune of \$269,000 by Marshall N. Dana Construction Inc., terminated contractor for the 50-unit HUD housing project.

It was just the anticipated climax to a long history of problems between the contractor and the Housing Authority that began just after the \$1.7 million project was

awarded to Dana in April of 1977.

The suit seeks damages in the amount of \$225,000 for breach of contract, plus \$14,000 is sought for work performed on the senior citizens community building and allegedly not paid.

Hydroelectric study in final stage

A progress report on the feasibility of constructing generating facilities at the Pelton-Regulating dam will be presented to the Tribal Council.

The final report, due out in February, will include a general design and financial analysis.

Montee accepts job in Prineville

Dick Montee's letter of resignation brings to a quiet conclusion several months of uncertain and increasingly uncomfortable employment with the tribes. Montee, who was transferred back to the juvenile program after a brief stint as assistant chief of police, accepted an offer from Prineville.

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Young Achiever John Courtney

Sponsored by Attorneys at Law Christopher C. Eck, Timothy G. Elliott and Philip R. Anderson, LLP.

John Courtney is a long way from Warm Springs, where he grew up.

Courtney, 23, is at Ft. Benning in Georgia, where he is going through U.S. Army officer training.

After training for a few more months at Ft. Benning, Lt. Courtney will be heading to his permanent duty station at Ft. Carson, Colo.

Then in 2005 he will be heading for service overseas. The likely destination overseas is Iraq.

Lt. Courtney has been in the Army for the past seven months. He joined shortly after graduating from the Oregon State University, where he earned a degree in Sociology.

His wife Lt. April Courtney also graduated from OSU, and she also joined the Army.

As college graduates, and with high ranking in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Courtneys joined the Army as officers.

Because of their accomplishments in college, they were able to choose which area of Army service they wished to pursue as a career.

April Courtney is in training in the area of military intelligence, while her husband is training as an Infantry Lieutenant. When he completes the officer training at Ft. Benning, Lt. John Courtney will have 34 soldiers under his



John Courtney

command.

“My job is to keep them alive,” he says, adding that the training he has received so far has been excellent. “I love the Army,” he says.

Courtney plans one day to move back to Warm Springs. He has strong roots here, having gone to school at Warm Springs Elementary and the Jefferson County middle and high schools. His parents are Ellen and Don Courtney.

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