

Reservation extension agents have a focus on youth

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

Fresh faces and new ideas are the quickest way to describe OSU Extension's three newest agents on the reservation.

Fara Ann Currim will focus on agriculture, but an increasing amount of her time will be concentrating on youth development. Emilee Hugie's efforts will be on assisting young people and families. And Kimberly Woolston will be replacing Arlene

Boileau working with youngsters and 4-H.

"In the last six to eight years Tribal Council has always put youth as a high priority, consequently it becomes a very high priority for us," said Clint Jacks, of Jefferson County OSU Extension Services. "It's interesting to take a look at all the positions we have at Warm Springs, because every one of them has some sort of youth component."

Most folks on the reservation will recognize Currim from her work on the ceded lands with Natural Resources. She is a habitat biologist. She feels her previous job will give her a jump-start as a new Extension Agent.

"My old job was a real asset in understanding tribal issues and culture," she says. "I formed strong relationships with people who helped me a lot and that's important to this job."

She continues, "I think it's very important for tribal people to be working on the reservation, dealing with their natural resources." Of her job she said, "I love working directly with the people and I like being part of this community."

Currim feels the community will dictate many of the demands of her job. Take, for example, the newly re-formed Rockin' 4-H club.

"I was approached in my first month by concerned mothers and other people," she said. "They expressed the need to get the club up and running again."

The Rockin' 4-H club had not been on the immediate list of her priorities. However, when she saw how important it is to members of the community, she made sure the correct people were put in the proper positions to make it happen.

"The club is running again after being dead for 10 years. It didn't happen because of me. It happened because people wanted it to happen," she says.

People who recognize community needs are important to

Currim. Recently, retired rodeo cowboy Edison Yazzie walked into her office and said, "There's a need to learn good roping skills on the reservation. There isn't anyone who's doing that and we're losing the art."

Minutes later Yazzie agreed to put together a roping clinic with the help of the Warm Springs Rodeo Association and a few other interested tribal members. The clinic was a resounding success (see page 6).

Family and community

Currim is a regular around the reservation. And there are some folks who might think family and community development specialist Emilee Hugie looks familiar, too.

Hugie grew up in Madras and has been involved in 4-H

and, peripherally, with Extension for many years. The scope of her job will cover a lot of territory.

First up, though, are the kids. Right now she's involved in projects that support the children in school.

"We have a field trip for fifth and sixth graders to go up to the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center and work with the weather station," she says.

There is a computer accessible weather station on top of the Warm Springs Elementary School; however, it is little used.

To remedy the situation fourth- and fifth-grade classes will go on a field trip to the research center on Agency Plains and learn about computers and their weather station.

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It was Family Jamboree Day at the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center last week. The activities included extreme sports activities, and more traditional types of fair games.

At top, Martika Saludo-Kelly prepares for a sumo wrestling match. The contestants wore over-stuffed sumo outfits, and tried to knock one another down.

At left, Marlin Suppah competes in the basketball-type game, where the players are attached by bungee cords to the air-filled tower.

Jamboree Day was presented by the Recreation Department.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

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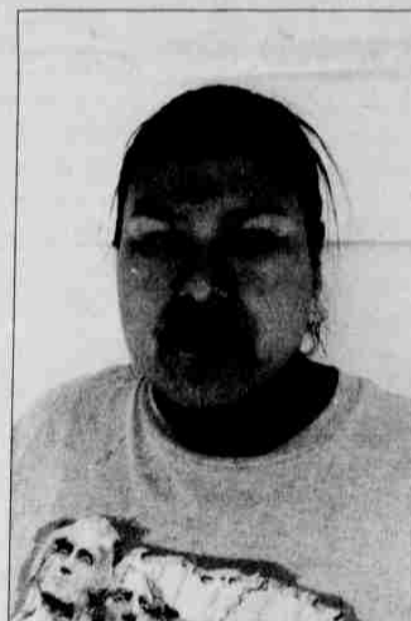
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Young Achiever — Jessica Longknife — Sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Center

Jessica is 15 and will be a sophomore this upcoming school year. For the past couple of months she has worked at Spilyay Tymoo as a summer youth worker, and was able to get a first hand experience at producing a news article.

She plans to study journalism in school and pursue journalism as a professional career.



Feds look at better ways to fund Indian Health Services programs

(AP) - With no extra funding in sight for Indian Health Services, federal officials are looking at more ways to make money go further, an assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said last week.

"If you can't get Congress to fully fund, what's your fallback?" Michael O'Grady asked, as he spoke at an annual tribal health conference hosted by the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council.

Efficiency steps taken by his agency include finding ways tribal and federal officials can better cooperate and promote preventive steps that will both save money and control illnesses.

In some cases, O'Grady said the Indian Health Service may be paying for services that

should be covered by Medicaid or Medicare. He said recent changes in Medicare, including covering 75 percent of prescription drug costs and free physical exams for new recipients, will also help.

O'Grady said government officials will also have to make some decisions soon about what to do for long-term care demands as baby boomers age.

"To me, that's a sleeping giant," he said. "But not much attention is being drawn to it."

IHS research analyst Cliff Wiggins said that for each of the 1.4 million tribal members who use IHS programs, there is a \$1,500 annual shortfall compared with mainstream health plans. That amounts to a budget gap of more than \$2 billion a year in the IHS budget of \$3.5 billion, Wiggins said.

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