

Candidate for Junior Court

Verbena Veronica Nora Greene is four years old and selling tickets for the title of Miss Pi-Ume-Sha Junior Queen. Her Indian name is Pretty Eagle Girl, given to her by her grandmother Rose Chesaneke in Crow Agency, Mont.



Verbena Veronica Nora Greene

Verbena enjoys powwows, participating in hand games (stick games), riding her bike and being with her families both in Montana and Oregon.

She is a student at the Head Start program in Crow Agency. She is the daughter of Ramon Greene of Warm Springs and Plyza Greene of Crow Agency, Mont.

She has one sister, Lawrencia Greene (of Crow Agency) and one brother, Jake Frank (of Warm

Springs). Her grandparents are Ramona and Luis Baez L. and Christine and Patrick Big Lake. Her family includes uncles Jarvis and Felix Big Lake and aunts Kristen and Charmin Big Lake, as well as her aunt and uncle Brutus Baez and Veronica Baez.

BitMobile offering computer classes

The Bit Mobile from Oregon State University offered beginning computer classes on June 14 to over 20 people in two classes.

The classes helped beginners learn about using a computer.

Tod Williver, the instructor, is well known as one of the best computer instructors in the Central Oregon Region.

The Bit Mobile, a large trailer or "toy box" is equipped with 15 laptop computers and a satellite dish. It is funded by a grant from Oregon State University.

You can sign up for the June 28 class on E-mail and Internet Use by calling or stopping by the Warm Springs Library at the Family Resource Center.

The number is 553-3438 and ask for Julie or Althea.



Photo by Julie Quid

Local residents learn beginning computer skills at the OSU BitMobile, which will return to Warm Springs on June 28.

Opinion questionnaire draws on research, experience at other reservations

By Maren Cohn

Warm Springs Ventures

On June 15, the deadline expired for mailing in the opinion survey recently sent to all tribal members over the age of 18. Names of the cash prize winners will be announced soon, and results should be available next month. Preliminary analysis shows a high rate of response, and the sponsors are pleased that so many tribal members took time to fill out the questionnaire.

Warm Springs Ventures and Kah-Nee-Ta initiated the summer-long opinion research to find out what tribal members think about the reservation economy - how it is currently performing and what it should strive for in the future. The two organizations went into the project intending to ask questions about what kinds of labor

and resource development members were willing to support. They hoped the answers would help them in long-range planning for new projects on the reservation.

In compiling the survey, however, the authors perceived the need to address issues beyond the economy as narrowly understood. Since economic issues cannot be isolated from other areas of reservation life, the survey grew in scope to accommodate interconnections between political, cultural, and economic forces.

"We did a lot of research while putting the survey together," says Clyde Hamstreet, CEO of Ventures. "We looked into what other reservations have done to improve their economies, and we tried to determine what factors are deciding in helping tribes become

economically successful."

An especially fruitful source for the questionnaire was the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, run out of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona. For the past twenty years, researchers from the project have been working in Indian Country to help tribes find ways to end reservation poverty. By looking at healthy and struggling communities alike, they have uncovered a series of factors that make a decisive difference between economic success and failure on reservations.

One of the most striking results of this research concerns the important role played by the tribal administration and institutions of government in building a thriving economy. Authors

of the many Harvard Project papers stress repeatedly the importance of looking beyond the creation of a few good business enterprises. Such businesses are essential, of course. But before they can take lasting root, the research reveals, tribes must ensure that their administrative systems adequately support business and investment in general.

"We've worked with dozens and dozens of tribes over the years," says Joe Kalt, a professor in the Kennedy School of Government and one of the Harvard

Project's directors. "Each case is different, but the foundational need

for a stable, effective and culturally legitimate governmental infrastructure to support economic development is common to all. Every society needs that, not just American Indians. But the historical circumstances of reservation life, especially the long tradition of outsiders controlling decisions, have not promoted the conditions needed for strong economic growth. What that means for many tribes is that they need to go back and look at the institutions of their communities, to see how well they fit with who the tribe is as a people."

Some of the tribes assisted by Harvard Project researchers have become widely-known success stories. For instance, Kalt served as mediator in negotiating the historic agreement that settled endangered species disputes between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agreement resulted in an Executive Order providing for tribal assumption of authority in natural resource matters, and enabled the tribe to continue its profitable forest products and recreational businesses.

(This article will conclude in the next edition of the Spilyay.)

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