

# Spilyay Tymoo

P.O. Box 870  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

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## Tribes recognized for anti-drug effort

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were recognized recently as a national "Success Story" in the effort to combat alcohol and other drugs on the reservation.

The tribe received the award in Baltimore last weekend at the concluding luncheon of the Seventh Annual leadership conference of the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center.

The tribal Housing Authority policies against drug and alcohol use and sale were a key part of why the tribes have been recognized for the effort.

The award was accepted by Jeff Sanders, Warm Springs Housing Authority executive director.

"We believe that many of our social problems have been centered on alcohol," Sanders said.

"We want to turn this around. We want to stop our teenagers from dying due to the consequences of alcohol abuse. We want Warm Springs to be seen as a safe and decent place to raise families."

Warm Springs data show that alcohol is by far the most abused substance among the 1,053 people admitted to treatment over a three-year period. The average age of first use by persons in treatment was 14 and 15 years.

The Housing Authority anti-drug and -alcohol policies were adopted earlier this year. The policies apply to people leasing or buying units from the housing authority.

If found in violation of the policies, a person is excluded from leased housing authority units for at least 12 months. Also, purchase agreements can be terminated.

Caroline Cruz, of the Oregon Department of Human Services, provides technical assistance to the tribes in her role as alcohol and drug prevention specialist. "Since April of this year, people abusing alcohol or engaging in illegal drug activity in Warm Springs housing authority units have been subject to eviction," said Cruz.

"Tribal officials tell me no one has lost housing so far, but the new policy has led to more people getting into treatment and onto a path to recovery."

She said, "When you get on a waiting list for housing, it can take years because housing is scarce," Cruz said. "People are going to think twice about their behavior."

Besides the housing consequences for adults and their families, the awareness of the new policy and resulting change in community norms should reduce underage drinking on the reservation, and adults' contributions to it.

Cruz said that details about the Warm Springs model would be shared with the state's eight other federally recognized tribes at a September quarterly meeting in Lincoln City.

Meanwhile, she said, the Department of Human Services Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services has given the nine tribes \$4,000 each to conduct surveys to obtain community profiles of underage drinking.

She said she expects those results also to be presented at the September meeting.

"The Warm Springs model is an excellent example of how people can take serious steps to alter community norms, influence behavior and improve personal and public health and quality of life," Cruz said.

## Weak lumber market hurting the mill

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is struggling with one of the weakest lumber markets in recent years. As a result, the 136 full-time regular WSFPI mill workers will see significant cost-saving changes this year and in 2007.

Because of the seriousness of the situation, the WSFPI board and management reported this week to Tribal Council regarding the financial condition of the enterprise.

WSFPI board chairman Mike Clements told Council that the mill is not about to close, "but we have some concerns that we want to share. We have a lumber market now that is very challenging for us," said

Clements.

Clements then told Council that Larry Potts, WSFPI general manager, would be resigning at the end of the year. The new general manager will be Mark Jackson, who has several years experience working in the timber and natural resource fields.

It has been a goal of the WSFPI board for the past several years to hire a tribal member as general manager, and with Jackson that goal will be accomplished, said Clements.

The plan for an eventual change in management was adopted about two years ago, and Jackson was named to the successor role by the WSFPI board and Tribal Council.

Potts said that he and Jackson will be working together for the next few

months, preparing for the transition to new management.

Potts then explained that the lumber market has seen large price fluctuation over the past 10 years. The current market, and the one forecasted for the rest of the year and into 2007 are among the lowest in at least a decade.

To maintain a safe amount of working capital, WSFPI needs to implement various cost-saving measures, said Potts.

For instance, the WSFPI incentives program — encouraging worker safety and on-time attendance — could be eliminated, for a savings of close to \$213,000 next year, and \$55,500 for the rest of 2006.

Through reduction in overtime,

WSFPI could save close to \$360,000 next year, and \$93,700 for the rest of 2006.

A change in health insurance coverage could save \$175,000 next year, and \$33,670 for the rest of this year. The change would involve eliminating coverage of the employee's spouse and dependants.

Councilwoman Carol Wewa commented the change in insurance coverage could be a serious hardship for some employees.

Councilman Raymond Tsumpti said the changes have been discussed for a number of years now, and the WSFPI board and administration have done a good job of maintaining the benefits for as long as they have.



Robert Charley and his son take a boat ride on Lake Billy Chinook (above), along with senior citizens and families who attended the Seniors Picnic at the Cove on August 24.

Young people had the chance to swim (right), and eat along with their families at the Cove.



Leslie Mitts photos

## 3-year program focuses on diabetes

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

American Indians suffer from some of the highest rates of diabetes in the world, and there is no known reason why. Montell Elliott, recruitment coordinator for the Warm Springs Diabetes Prevention Program, said "It's just genetics."

It's because of that information that the Diabetes Prevention Program is so important to the Warm Springs community.

The Diabetes Prevention Program is a three-year effort funded by a grant that the Diabetes Program, Community Health and Community Wellness received.

During the three years, participants attend a four-month class and continue to meet with a coach and receive help during the rest of the time period.

"They get care for all three years of the grant," Elliott said, including follow-up lab work.

The Warm Springs program is one of 36 other sites with the same curriculum, Elliott said. Currently the program is in the middle of its second class, which has 15 participants. The first class, which began last January, had 14.

Elliott is helping to teach classes along with other staff members from the diabetes program.

See DIABETES on 9

## Equipment to improve emergency response

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Three groups came together to present a solution for the current lack of emergency response communication options to tribal administrators August 16.

The groups—Science Applications International Corporation, Information Processing Systems, and AAR—are working to make the process of communicating more efficient for tribal members.

Rick Williams, regional director for Science Application International Corporation, a research and engineering firm, said the groups came to present their equipment at the request of the tribes.

The equipment would make it easier for entities (like the police department or Fire and Safety) to communicate.

According to Fire Chief Dan Martinez, that is something that Warm Springs currently lacks.

"We just simply don't have 100 percent coverage," he explained. "The objective is to get that coverage."

Now, he added, 45 to 50 percent of the reservation is lacking the necessary communication.

IPS, Williams said, has "come up with a piece of equipment that allows different types of radios to be connected together."

AAR, he added, builds the equipment into a structure and integrates the structure onto a truck.

"In the past during firefighting season, sometime you have to have three or four different radios," Williams said. The new system would aim to combine things—making the system simpler and more efficient.

"We're here to work with the tribe,

listen and learn what the regulations are," Williams explained.

If the council chooses to work with these organizations, Williams said, they aim to improve emergency and routine communications as well as help with air and water quality monitoring.

In addition, the upgrade would improve emergency coordination and potentially improve other things like telephone systems and wireless networks.

Media sources would also benefit from the upgraded equipment, Martinez said—ideally they would even be able to allow authorized users to view live-stream video from the location of the camera.

While in Warm Springs, Williams said, they met with tribal administrators, the fire chief, and representatives from the police department and natural resources.

They also had the opportunity to meet with those in Power Enterprises and Eagle Tech.

"We've been very impressed with the people we've met," Williams said.

Martinez emphasized the idea of purchasing this type of equipment before it becomes a necessity. "We don't want to buy this during a disaster," he added.

The equipment, he said, is "designed to be stationed at ground zero."

Martinez said the equipment would require four days of training for 42 people, like dispatchers, hired to use the new resource.

Currently Martinez said they are looking at grants in order to find the necessary funding.

The cost for the upgrade is estimated at \$800,000, Martinez said, and they hope to complete the project by the end of 2008.