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During last Saturday's welcome-home rally for Jacoby Ellsbury, Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath presents Ellsbury with a Pendleton blanket and medallion. Ellsbury, of the World Champion Red Sox, was welcomed home with a parade and reception at the high school, and later in the day at Kah-Nee-Ta. (More on Ellsbury's welcome home rally on 12.)

Appeal of school rating successful

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs Elementary meets Adequate Yearly Progress standards for the Oregon Department of Education, after the 509-J school district won an appeal of a "not met" rating.

In the past, Warm Springs Elementary students have met academic standards but attendance caused the school to receive a rating of "not met" from the Oregon Department of Education.

The district has appealed the rating before, arguing that absences are for cultural reasons like funerals and powwows.

This year the appeal has been won after Superintendent Kay Baker mailed a letter to the Oregon Department of Education in defense of Warm Springs Elementary.

The statewide goal for the minimum attendance rate is 92 percent. While Warm Springs Elementary was originally shown to have an 89.1 percent rate, after the appeal was won and adjustments were made, the attendance rate was raised to 93 percent.

Overall the 509-J school district received a "not met" rating for AYP standards.

According to the Oregon Department of Education, "A district is identified as not meeting AYP standards if any indicator is determined as 'not met.'"

Madras High School received low ratings in the areas of overall rating, academic achievement and performance and attendance, dropouts and student behavior.

Jefferson County Middle School also received a rating of "low" in the area of attendance, dropouts and student behavior but received a satisfactory rating in other categories.

While all schools met the standards in terms of participation in

All schools in the 509-J district received a rating of "exceptional" in the category of school characteristics, however.

Students received ratings of "not met" in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics in the 509-J district.

The statewide expectation for students to meet or exceed standards is 50 percent in English/Language Arts and 49 percent in mathematics.

District ratings are required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Report cards issued by the Oregon Department of Education are meant to show areas needing improvement within each district in the state.

For more information, visit www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.apx.

Tribes to host Native Nations seminar

Looking for good opportunities to coordinate vision and strategy throughout the tribal organization, the Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica has arranged for a special executive education program to take place on the reservation in early December.

Entitled "Nation-Building: Leadership, Governance, and Economic Policy," the two-day conference at Kah-Nee-Ta will put extensive Indian Country research and policy experience at the tribe's disposal.

About forty tribal personnel are expected to attend, including Council members, enterprise and branch managers, and judicial officers.

Stephen Cornell and Joan Timeche

from the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI) of the University of Arizona will be conducting the seminar.

NNI is a sister organization to the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

Together the two institutions have worked with hundreds of tribes in the U.S. and Canada, performing research, developing policy, negotiating intergovernmental agreements, and offering a wide variety of educational programs.

Thanks to their long and varied experience in Indian Country, NNI conference leaders are familiar with challenges common in native societies and

can offer proven ideas that have helped other tribes build stronger communities.

Calica, is hopeful that working together in the seminar context will encourage tribal personnel to work together more effectively when they return to their daily positions.

"I attended NNI's regional conference last November in Portland," said Calica. "The presenters and tribal participants had important things to say and a lot of practical advice about how tribes can improve the health of their communities. I believe we can benefit from their experience and that it will be good for our political and administrative and business leaders to get to-

gether to define strategies and plans for community and economic development. It will help to give us some common vision and vocabulary and a good platform for making the reservation a better place."

As the centerpieces of their nation-building program, researchers from NNI and the Harvard Project have identified five key elements in fostering successful and sustained economic growth in native societies.

Practical sovereignty reflects a tribe's willingness and ability to assert self-governing power.

See NNI on 10

Torrez is new Arts and Crafts coordinator

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Lucinda Torrez has a new job, but she's no stranger to the Recreation Department.

Torrez, 21, recently took over as Arts and Crafts Coordinator for the Recreation Department after the former coordinator, Carol Allison, retired.

She began working with the Recreation Department in 2006 as a youth activities aid and continued working there until she recently filled the vacant position.

What has become a full-time position originally began as part of Torrez' search for a summer job when she returned home from Salem where she was going to college.

"I came back to Warm Springs to look for a summer job and I ended up staying here," she explained.

As a youth activities aid, Torrez said, she was responsible for helping with all different activities. Now her position is focused on a specific area, however.



Lucinda Torrez, Arts and Crafts coordinator at the Recreation Department.

"Now I have to plan everything," Torrez said—a task that has seemed daunting to her in the beginning when she faced the challenge of coordinating Halloween activities like the Great Pumpkin Party and Halloween Carni-

val. "I didn't really know what to expect," she said.

Luckily, Torrez added, the Recreation Department staff has been very willing to help her get settled in her

position. "My coworkers helped me out a lot," she said. "It's really team oriented."

Her favorite part, Torrez said, is working with children and helping them develop their arts and crafts skills.

"It's fun because the kids are crazy," Torrez explained. "It's never the same, really."

In the end, the children she works with are the most important part of the job to her, Torrez said.

"I'm pretty sure if they weren't here then I wouldn't be here," she said.

Arts and crafts is something Torrez has always shown an interest in throughout her life.

When it came to choosing electives in school, she said, "I always chose arts and pottery and all those before any other thing. I think it comes pretty naturally."

Next up Torrez will be working on the Christmas tree lighting and parade on December 6 and the upcoming Christmas bazaar.

Wishing you
a Safe and
Happy
Holiday
Season, from
the Spilyay Tymoo.



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