

VOCS recognized at annual conference

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Victims of Crime Services received recognition as one of the top four Tribal Victims Assistance grantee programs in the nation at a recent conference.

Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services (VOCS) staff members also attended the annual Tribal Victims Assistance Training Conference in Albuquerque where they gave a presentation on their successful program.

Tina Aguilar, a VOCS advocate, attended the TVA conference and said tribes from across the U.S. came together to discuss how to help tribal victims.

One speaker gave a presentation about working as an FBI representative and responding to a school shooting tragedy in Red Lake, Minn.

Throughout the conference, Aguilar said, she learned about how to blend culture and tradition into world harmony.

"It kind of made me open up my eyes again to see how important we are to people," Aguilar explained.

According to VOCS director Mark Matthews, they also gave



Tina Aguilar and Sammy Bruised Head attended the conference in Albuquerque.

a presentation at the conference about the uniqueness of Warm Springs and how they are able to help local victims.

Sammy Bruised Head also attended the conference and said, "I just basically thought it was very informative."

She said she was able to learn about other programs that include aspects of tribal culture in order to help victims and said that is something they are cur-

rently striving toward in Warm Springs.

Wilson Wewa traveled with VOCS staff to the conference as a representative for Tribal Council. "It was important for our tribal leadership to go," Bruised Head added.

According to Aguilar, the conference will help her as she continues to work with VOCS. "I think all in all it was a good learning experience for me," she

said.

Out of 37 TVA grant recipients across the United States, Warm Springs VOCS was honored as one of the top four grant recipients because it was identified as a highly functioning and efficient program.

According to Matthews, "Josephine Johnson's diligent and professional work as the grants and contracts accountant for the TVA grant is one of the reasons that Warm Springs VOCS has been recognized as a 'top TVA Grantee Program.' He also credits Bonnie Langeliers and Michelle Stacona for their help with grant accounting matters.

Josephine Johnson serves as the grants and contracts account for the Finance Department that works with VOCS. She said VOCS receives an above average amount compared to other departments.

Everyone in finance is assigned certain departments, she said, and she works with 11 departments to handle their grants.

VOCS receives about four grants, Johnson said. "That's a lot because each grant has their own requirements," she explained.

Health and Wellness hosts Well Women's Clinic

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center now has a Well Women's clinic on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

This is a nurse-run clinic and is set up to do cervical cancer screening (pap smears), sexually transmitted disease exams, breast exams, referrals for mammograms and immunizations.

The clinic is held in Pod A in Community Health.

The clinic has three Registered Nurses, Jodi Fickett, PHN, Denise Swift, RN and Katie Russell, RN that have had the special training to perform the exams.

This training was provided by the Mayo Clinic.

If you are not eligible to have mammograms paid for by the tribe's Managed Care program,

we can now send you to Madras Medical Group for a breast exam and they will refer you for a mammogram—all at no cost to you.

Through our Well Women's program, we can help you access that system.

In addition, the nurses can help you with family planning services, but they are currently limited to Depo Provera injections.

Remember that this clinic is for "well women exams," so if you are having problems that are causing you pain or discomfort, you need to see your regular provider at the clinic.

Spring at the chance to get your Women's Health needs taken care of by a woman. The clinic workers hope to see you soon in the Well Women's Clinic.

New director at community counseling

Jolene Walters came to Warm Springs recently to take on the job of director of Community Counseling.

Walters, a member of the Iowa tribe, comes from Kansas, where the four tribes are the Iowa, the Potawatomi, the Kickapoo, and the Sac and Fox.

Before coming to Warm Springs, Walters was the director of the four tribes' Womens Wellness Coalition.

Walters has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology. She went to college after battling through a serious illness, during a time when she was working as a caller for her tribes' Bingo hall.

After graduating, she began working in the adult mental health field, and then went on to get her Masters Degree from the University of Kansas, where she a First Nations Scholar.

In school she focused on Indian child welfare, and Native American social services.

After school she worked



New community counseling director Jolene Walters.

as a therapeutic case manager, and director of her tribes' social services, before returning to the field of adult mental health.

She has family living in Washington state.

She visited them over the

years, and liked the region, which led her to apply for the Warm Springs Community Counseling director job.

— by Dave McMechan

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Judge likely to award money in Indian trust case

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - After a 12-year legal fight, a federal judge said Monday he likely will award money to Indians whose lands have been mismanaged by the government.

Whether they'll ever see that money is another matter.

The lawsuit claims the government has mismanaged billions of dollars in royalties held in trust from American Indian lands dating back to 1887. U.S. District Judge James Robertson ruled in January that a full accounting at the Interior Department has become impossible.

Lawyers for the Indians contend the government must pay \$58 billion, to be divided among hundreds of thousands of Indian trust accountholders. The government opposes that calculation.

Robertson scheduled another round of hearings in June to resolve the case.

"One way or another, the result of this case is a dollar figure," Robertson said Monday, but he said an appeals court may decide otherwise.

Further complicating matters, the amount of money is so large - roughly five times the size of Interior Department's annual budget - Congress would almost certainly have to vote to spend the money before it could be paid out.

Robertson expressed skepticism at the figure Monday, saying it had "considerably more zeros after the dollar sign" than he thought possible.

Regardless of the total, he said he needed to put a final figure on paper "so somebody in the other branch of government can figure out what to do about it."

Robertson said he was also concerned with the plan to dis-

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