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Council action addresses adoption, enrollment

Submitted by the Office of the
Secretary-Treasurer

The Twenty-Third and Twenty-Fourth Tribal Councils conducted a series of workshops, along with district, General Council and family meetings to decide a prudent course of action to resolve the enrollment and adoption concerns based upon the issue and interests of the tribal membership.

The most recent adoption proposal drew very significant criticism and complaint based upon the size and charac-

ter of the list of candidates and election process.

The membership seemed to insist that Tribal Council assert a more thoughtful and meaningful approach to resolve both short and longer term membership issues other than the wholesale adoption option that was presented.

Many comments expressed a need for the Tribal Council to assert an approach that balanced or tempered the provisions of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws with wisdom and respect

for our traditional identity and values.

Many felt that several aspects of the residency requirement were important to protect and preserve our unique and time-honored heritage, beliefs and teachings.

Others commented that federal officials may have imposed their own interpretation and definition on our identity in a way that disrupted and divided our traditional kinship ties.

The Twenty-Fourth Tribal Council installed a four part solution: adopting the 1960 base roll in addition to the

1940 base roll; recognizing traditional affiliation; codifying the enrollment process, and moving forward with an amended list of candidates for adoption based upon a close application of residency.

These enactments would then be applied to the list of 184 applications currently on the adoption list.

1960 base roll change

Approval of Resolution 10,933 adopts a 1960 base roll that will operate in addition to the 1940 base roll.

Like the 1940 base roll, the 1960 base roll will recognize the entire valid Indian blood quantum as eligibility for Confederated Tribes enrollment.

The siblings of any persons showing on the 1960 base roll would be eligible to assert the same blood quantum based upon the same parentage.

Eighty-seven of the 284 applicants would then qualify to reapply for automatic enrollment.

A list will be posted for one year for review and appeals.

See **ADOPTION** on page 10

Tribal Court program focuses on youth

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Cyrille Mitchell and Cecelia LeClaire know how it is to grow up in Warm Springs, and they're using that experience as part of their current employment.

Mitchell and LeClaire are working as youth coordinators through Tribal Court.

Youth are assigned to work with the coordinators and are then able to complete required community service hours through various activities and projects.

"We attend court cases, we get kids assigned to us, and we work with them," LeClaire explained.

Activities can include things like a community cleanup, loom, beading class, huckleberry picking or root digging among much more. During the school year students meet with coordinators and do homework as well, Mitchell said.

In addition, Mitchell said, "I have an office at the high school and I'll be working with the youth at the high school with their attendance and their grades."

This is the first year in the position for both women, so LeClaire said they're still learning about the job as they go.

Mitchell's position is funded by a grant while LeClaire is employed by the tribes.

Mitchell graduated with her associate's degree from Haskell University and only planned to remain home in Warm Springs for about a year when she discovered the opportunity of this job, she said. Now she plans to remain in Warm Springs for



Youth coordinators Cyrille Mitchell and Cecelia LeClaire.

several more years.

According to Mitchell, "I've always seen myself working with youth."

LeClaire agreed and said working at the Community Center throughout high school is part of what made her want to work with local youth.

"I've always worked with kids, being at the center," LeClaire said. "Just helping kids was kind of what gave me the interest in putting my application in."

As part of her position, LeClaire added, she is able to take some college courses and obtain her associate's degree.

For Mitchell, 22, and LeClaire, 25,

their age is something that helps them connect with the youth on a level that an older adult wouldn't be able to.

"We're able to interpret and comprehend between their lifestyles," LeClaire explained.

In Mitchell's opinion, "We grew up here and we tell them, you know, everything is still the same."

So far, the two think they are definitely helping local youth.

"I think its helping pretty good because we haven't seen the same kid twice," Mitchell said.

For LeClaire and Mitchell, helping the youth is what they strive towards.

"It just makes yourself feel better

that you're doing something for the kids here," LeClaire said. "They're the most important things."

According to Mitchell, "They're our future leaders and we don't want our future leaders to be in trouble and have a record."

"We're just trying to make a difference," Mitchell added, "To give them an opportunity that our generation never had."

Mitchell and LeClaire welcome suggestion or questions from parents.

Mitchell can be reached at 553-3442 and LeClaire can be reached at 553-3446.

Grant of \$50,000 helps museum

The Museum at Warm Springs received a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund in the amount of \$50,000.

The grant was awarded through the new Spirit Mountain Community Fund Oregon Tribes Grant Program.

The grant will enable the Museum at Warm Springs to implement its Heritage Exhibit Renewal Project.

The Heritage Exhibit Renewal Project will update the audiovisual system in the museum's permanent exhibit and create a master plan for future additions to the permanent exhibit.

The new audiovisual hardware will be less costly to maintain and repair and will be a platform for new features in the museum's permanent exhibit.

The master plan will reflect the evolving interests of the Warm Springs community and be designed to enhance the educational experience of visitors to the museum.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. This is the first year that the fund has provided support to the federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

The mission of the Museum is to preserve, advance, and share the knowledge of the cultural, traditional and artistic heritage of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Museum achieves this through educational exhibitions and programs that raise and inspire awareness of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and other indigenous tribes.

The museum's Heritage Exhibit Renewal Project, helped by the recent grant, will further the mission of the museum, said Carol Leone, museum executive director.

Tribes, Cascade Locks hosting Festival of Nations

The Confederated Tribes, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and the Cascade Locks community will host the Fourth Annual Festival of Nations on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28 at the Marine Park at Cascade Locks.

The Festival of Nations—a celebration of cultures and partnership—will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Culture and Heritage Department will be on-site with hands-on activities as well as language materials of all three tribes. Also on stage, each of the three tribes will provide traditional performance of their respective tribe in traditional dress, also sharing the different languages.

The festival features food, oral his-

tory, games, art interactive displays, and Old Style Stick Games. The Saturday evening main event will be the Round Bustle, exhibition (15 and under) and contest (16 and over). The Old Style Stick Game event is non-cash and no hand drum, start time at 1 p.m. on both days. Bring material goods/trade items, join in the old time, traditional fun. For more information call Wilson Wewa Jr., coordinator, at (541) 460-0654.

The Festival of Nations Salmon Run is a 10-k run starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. A one-mile run/walk starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration forms are available at the Kah-Nee-Ta expansion office at Kah-Nee-Ta; at the Warm Springs Recreation Department. (See the festival schedule on page 7.)

Program rewards, encourages saving

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Warm Springs Community Action Team recently received \$294,750 in funding to help low-income residents.

The funds will be used to help residents save money in order to buy or rehabilitate their home, pursue higher education, purchase adaptive equipment to allow them to work, or start a new business.

The funding comes from the State of Oregon's tax credit program that funds a statewide IDA Initiative which is administered by The Neighborhood Partnership Fund, an or-

ganization dedicated to helping low-income Oregonians improve their lives.

One of the goals of the program is to encourage participants to save money and develop financial assets, said Lonnie James, Managing Director of the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

This can be done through an Individual Development Account, or IDA, he said.

A person's IDA account is used for saving, with the person's own money matched, multiple times, by the fund.

The money from the Neighborhood Partnership Fund will be used to match funds a person deposits in his or her IDA.

For instance, if the person deposits \$25 in savings per month (the minimum allowed amount), then the fund would add \$75 for a total of \$100.

The money accumulates for the purpose of purchasing or rehabilitating a home, or supporting the pursuit of higher education. The savings could be used for items such as a computer that would be needed as part of the education plan, said James.

The savings could also be used as the capitalization of a new business, he said.

See **IDA** on page 10