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Tribes, IHS establish health commission

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Indian Health Services have reached a new agreement for providing health care services to the membership.

The agreement represents a hopeful change in the relationship between the tribes and IHS, which in recent years had grown troublesome.

The new agreement provides for the creation of a seven-member Joint Health Commission that will oversee health care services, as provided by the tribes and IHS.

The commission will consist of the tribal secretary-treasurer and the health care director, plus at-large positions. Tribal Council is in the process of filling the at-large positions.

"I commend the Council for getting us here," secretary-treasurer Jody Calica said at the signing ceremony this week at the clinic.

There had been major disagreements between the tribes and IHS about health care on the reservation, "but we have worked beyond that for the benefit of the people," Calica said.

The tribes and IHS reached the agree-



Representing the Confederated Tribes, Council Vice-Chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham signs the memorandum of understanding. Doni Wilder (right) signed on behalf of IHS.

ment through mediation before a federal judge. The mediation process began after the tribes filed a lawsuit against IHS. Through the agreement, or memorandum of understanding (MOU), the tribes agreed to drop the lawsuit.

At the signing ceremony, Council

Vice-Chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham said that tribal members continue to rely on traditional medicines, but the membership must also have access to the best of modern medical technology.

The tribal-IHS agreement, and the

creation of the Joint Health Commission, "will let our people know that this is a safe place to heal," she said of the clinic.

The MOU represents a great accomplishment for the tribal staff at IHS and others who have worked on the project, Calica and Stwyer-Pinkham said.

Those at the clinic who provided support during the agreement process include Cassie Katchia, who is now the Joint Health Commission officer; and staff Bob Boffin and Dayle Tuffie.

The Health and Welfare Committee—chairwoman Janice Clements, Urbana Manion, Frank Charley and Earlyne Squimphen—are to be commended for their work, as is Roberta Queahpama, director of Community Health.

Mike Clements, director of Human Resources, who was master of ceremonies at the signing, took a lead role in the agreement process.

Other speakers at the signing ceremony were Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, Councilwoman Bernice Mitchell, and Councilmen Wendell Jim and Rafael Queahpama.

See HEALTH CARE on 7

Hearing in June on settlement

A hearing is scheduled in June in regard to the trust lawsuit settlement agreement reached between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the U.S. government. The settlement is in the amount of \$68 million.

The hearing on the distribution of the funds will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4 at the Agency Longhouse in Warm Springs. According to the notice of hearing:

"The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the United States have entered into a settlement agreement for \$68 million which shall settle the Tribes' claim that the United States government breached its trust duties in regard to the management of the Tribes' non-monetary assets from 1855 to the present... This award is Phase II of the case originally filed in 2002..."

Of the total \$68 million, \$32 million "shall be used by the Tribe as it decides in its sole discretion for tribal operations and purposes..."

Also: "\$29 million shall be used in implementation of the Strategic Restoration Plan for the Natural Resources on the Warm Spring Reservation."

(See page 7 for the plan for use and distribution of the funds, and the BIA notice of hearing.)

Musically inspired, Doney overcomes obstacles



Jeremy Doney performs in the the sensory garden at the Oregon School for the Blind.

Photo by Bob Disher/Oregon School for the Blind.

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

His music—like the way his talent has grown—is an inspiration.

Jeremy Doney first started playing piano at the Oregon School for the Blind in Salem. He would listen to songs and then play them back on the piano.

Recognizing his talent, the teachers at the school helped him pursue his gift. He learned new songs every day, and his repertoire became vast.

In time, the school hired a professional piano teacher to work with Jeremy on the more difficult play-

ing techniques.

The Snowman Foundation, an organization that promotes music in the Northwest, has been a great supporter of Jeremy and his music.

The foundation helped in hiring his piano teacher. And the foundation has helped Jeremy produce his first compact disc, *In the Garden*.

The CD is named for the sensory garden at the School for the Blind, where Jeremy has played many songs over the years.

Ready to graduate

Jeremy has been blind since birth. His parents are Orlando Doney and Lenora Starr. Jeremy first went to the

"When he plays piano the limitations he has without music fall away. It is a wonder to see and hear."

Jill Kickenlooper, piano teacher

Oregon School for the Blind when he was 9.

He is about to graduate, and he will be moving this summer to Madras to live with his father. He has a job lined up at a thrift store in Madras.

He said he is looking forward to moving back to Central Oregon, and especially is looking forward to playing at the Bend Summer Festival.

His concert experience includes the Ten Grands performances in Portland and Seattle.

At the 2007 Ten Grands concert in Portland, Jeremy played a highlight of the show with composer and pianist Michael Allen Harrison, who founded the Snowman Foundation.

Jeremy has played concerts at schools, retirement homes and fundraising events.

Please see MUSICIAN on 8

Changes proposed to tribal code

In response to Tribal Council direction, the Justice Team is proposing changes to the Tribal Code. Hearings on the proposed changes are tentatively scheduled at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at the Agency Longhouse; and on Tuesday, May 19 at the Simnasho Longhouse. Members may also comment in writing until May 29. Comments should be addressed to the Tribal Court, PO Box C.

Changes to the code include criminal provisions against animal fighting on the reservation. There also are provisions against certain gaming activities are also proposed, among other important changes, said Chief Judge Anita Jackson.

(See page 9 for the complete proposed code amendments.)

Recognizing Oregon's 150th

Next Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, the Confederated Tribes will host the events marking the 150th anniversary of Oregon's statehood.

The canoe arrival at the Celilo Park is scheduled for Friday afternoon, May 15, at 2 p.m. Ceremony and presentations follow, with a salmon bake set for 5 p.m. Youth activities—stories, Indian social dances and crafts—follow at 6, with stick game tournaments set for 8 p.m. The tribes will host a traditional parade at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 15 in downtown The Dalles. The powwow will be at The Dalles Fairgrounds. Grand Entry is a 2 p.m.

(See the tribes' Oregon 150 Itinerary on page 8, and more information on page 12.)