

## Top IHS business office manager

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Deborah Jackson is a top Indian Health Services business office manager.

She received recognition of this accomplishment last month in Reno, at the IHS national conference.

Jackson received the IHS Special Recognition of Achievement 2009 Partnership Award, for "Making Every Dollar Count."

She was chosen for the award from among 100 other IHS business office nominees from across Indian Country.

Jackson has been the IHS business office manager at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center for three years. She has worked for IHS for ten years.

"Deborah is a dynamic and progressive business office manager who motivates her staff with an upbeat manner," the IHS award statement says.

The work of Jackson and her six-person staff brought in more money in 2008 than IHS had originally targeted. "She is a top business office manager who has worked hard to successfully integrate the business office model into the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center."

In 2008 Jackson and her staff played a key role in signing up tribal members for the Oregon Health Plan lottery, which resulted in 450 local



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

As the IHS business office manager at the Warm Springs clinic, Deborah Jackson won the service's Special Recognition of Achievement Award.

people gaining OHP coverage.

Through good planning during the year, the Warm Springs IHS business office staff at the end of 2008 did not have to rush and work overtime to get final billing out the door. It was business as usual, which did a lot for office morale.

Jackson gives great credit to her staff for the accomplishments of the business office. Her staff is cross-trained to various duties, reducing tasks

that become dependent on a particular person.

"If she sees a trend, she makes appointments to meet with that department to show the employees how to do the same work more effectively, thus breaking the cycle of habit," the award statements says.

"All of this translated into the recovery of more money in 2008 than had been targeted."

## Employee Appreciation Day May 27

Tribal Employee Recognition Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27 at the ball fields behind the community center. A variety of fun activities and a barbecue are planned, said Danica Greene, who is organizing the event.

Activities will be from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Luncheon provided

from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Administrative leave is granted to those employees wishing to participate in the events. Administrative leave does not apply to these departments: tribal police, corrections, emergency medical technicians, tribal group home, Early Childhood Education/Headstart, and

utilities.

Directors and managers are to ensure timely response to phone calls and office responsibilities, and ensure there is coverage for the office up to 5 p.m. Agenda of events will be available and distributed on Friday, May 22 to all departments.

## Free estate planning, will writing services offered to tribal members

The Institute for Indian Estate Planning and Probate is again partnering with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to offer estate planning and will writing services to community members of the Warm Springs Reservation.

This free service will be available through the summer. This is the third year in a row that the estate planning service will be provided free on the reservation.

As in previous years, a second-year law student will be located in the community for a 10-week period. The student will be the primary service provider.

This year's overall project includes twelve second-year law students who will undergo an intensive week of special training before they are located on various reservations and Indian communities in the Northwest.

Each "legal extern" will be supervised by a licensed attorney from the surrounding area.

The name of the legal extern to be stationed at Warm Springs this summer is Michelle Watchman. She is a law student from the Lewis and Clark School of Law.

Watchman will arrive in the Warm Springs community after Memorial Day weekend, and will be available to provide services for ten weeks, through the end of July.

Watchman will have office space in the Family Resource Center. Comprehensive estate planning and will writing services will be provided.

Unlike former Bureau of Indian Affairs wills that only covered Indian trust assets (land and accounts), the legal externs will prepare wills that cover all assets owned by an individual, including trust and non-trust assets.

However, even if you do not own any trust land or trust accounts, you are eligible for these estate planning and will writing services.

There is a sign-up sheet located at the Warm Springs Senior's Program. Or, if you prefer, a confidential sign-up sheet will be maintained at the IIM Office next to the BIA Superintendent's Office in the administration building.

The phone number is 553-2409. Simply ask to have your name, address and phone number added to the sign-up sheet for the Summer Legal Extern Project at Warm Springs.

After an individual's name is recorded on the list, a letter of confirmation will be mailed out along with important information regarding the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 and other materials to assist you.

## Tractor safety training and ATV certification

Do you know a youth who is looking for summer employment?

Be aware that farmers and ranchers who employ minors less than 18 years of age are required to hire those who have completed and passed a tractor safety training program.

A three-day Central Oregon Farm and Tractor Safety Training and Certification Course will be offered Monday-Wednesday, June 15-17.

The course, sponsored by the Oregon State University Extension Service, will be at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Redmond.

Training will include classroom work as well as hands-on experience with a variety of tractors and implements.

Safety on all-terrain vehicles

(ATV) will also be covered.

This class is open to those who will be 14 to 17 years of age during the upcoming agricultural season.

Registration fee for tractor safety training is \$50.

For an additional \$20, youth can also be ATV certified to ride on public lands.

Those wanting ATV certification must bring an "appropriately sized" ATV.

Registration deadline is June 1 and class size is limited to 40 students.

For more information or to register, contact the OSU Extension Service in Deschutes County, 548-6088 or email: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu.

Registration forms are available at this website: extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/

*Warm Springs Market,  
Indian Arts and Crafts*  
2132 Warm Springs St.  
Warm Springs, OR 97761  
(541) 553-1597

### Native market this weekend

A Native American market event happens this Friday through Monday, May 22-25 at the Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City.

Vendors should contact Revelle Lewis at (541) 996-3297, cell phone 992-0350.

There will be a \$75 booth fee for all vendors. All vendors will be required to donate a \$25 raffle item.

**Pioneer Rock & Monument**  
'Specializing in Native American Design'  
Headstones~Monuments~Stone Signs  
201 Crafton Rd  
Goldendale, WA  
509-773-4702  
For Map Go To  
[www.pioneerrock.com](http://www.pioneerrock.com)

**Bunk Beds**  
**10 Percent off!**

*Serving Central Oregon since 1974*

**Ralph's Furniture & T.V.**

525 S.E. 5th Street  
Madras, OR 97741  
(541) 475-2578

**FENDERS by ENDRES**

*Need A Tow?  
Call on Joe*

Fast, Courteous 24-Hour Service.  
Accident Recovery.  
Roll Back, for damage-free Towing  
Statewide coverage

**Insurance approved.**

**475-6491 office, or 480-9685**