

Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts W.S. grand opening

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon is looking for youth and adults of Warm Springs who are interested in becoming a part of the program.

Warm Springs Fire Chief Dan Martinez was among those who attended the grand opening of Big Brothers Big Sisters last week in Warm Springs.

"I see a need for the program in the community. We need role models for our young people," said Martinez.

The community needs alternatives to the gangs and other self-destructive influences, he said.

Martinez said the adults who volunteer for the program can accompany the youth during all kinds of activities—fishing, traditional dancing, cutting firewood, going to the movies, any activity that would interest the youth.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is for youth ages 6 to 15. The goal of the program is "to empower the youth to achieve their highest potential through meaningful one-on-one relationships with caring mentors."



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon program coordinator for the area Nancy Dodge-Diaz at the grand opening last week at the Warm Springs Community Center.

The adults who volunteer have to pass a background and a driving check, said Nancy Dodge-Diaz, the program coordinator for the area.

People who are interested can reach Dodge-Diaz at 541-280-5793. Her office in Warm Springs is in the Education building.

Road closure for Seekseequa water project

A portion of the M-300 Road, located in the Seekseequa watershed, will be closed from July 25 through August 28, 2009. The closed segment is between the M-300's junction with the M-200 and its junction with the M-310.

The Tribal Environmental Office will be working on

the second of four phases of a project intended to improve water quality in the Seekseequa watershed. During this phase, four miles of the M-300 will be resurfaced with 1.5 minus rock from the Twin Buttes Quarry.

Additional aspects of the project include culvert cleaning and repair, one new culvert installation, catch basin and

headwall restoration, ditch repair with erosion controls, and improved culvert outflows.

During construction, traffic on Tenino Road is expected to increase, as crews travel to and from the work site.

Grant helps train more Native American teachers

The University of Oregon has received a \$345,000 grant to train Native American teachers and education administrators.

The grant is part of nearly \$3.8 million in federal grants that will be distributed among seven states including Oregon.

"These professional de-

velopment grants will help us find, train and retrain the very best teachers and administrators within American Indian communities," said U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

The \$3.8 million grant award is part of the Office of Indian Education's program development program, which trains qualified individuals to become

teachers and administrators in Indian communities.

More information about Indian education is available from the Office of Indian Education at www.ed.gov.

The seven states selected for the grants are Oregon, Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Foster care review board is seeking volunteers

There are currently more than 5,400 children in foster care in the State of Oregon.

Many have been abused or neglected.

Their families need services to allow them to safely return home in the shortest time possible. If that is not possible, they need another permanent home in which to safely grow up.

The cases of these children are reviewed by volunteers on citizen review boards throughout Oregon.

The volunteers give of their time to ensure children, youth and families in the child welfare and juvenile justice system get the support and services they need.

Boards usually meet one day a month. Board members receive information on each case before they meet.

At the review, they hear from all parties to the child's case.

They look at services being provided to the parents; the parent's progress; the education, health, and wellbeing of the child; the treatment plan of the youth offender, etc.

They hold parents, youth offenders and state agencies accountable.

After the board reviews the case, it makes findings and recommendations and sends them to the agencies, the parties, and the court.

Volunteers are needed now.

Every day counts in the life of a child in foster care.

Individuals from all walks of life, and who represent the diverse communities our children come from, are encouraged to apply.

Training and support is provided by professional staff of the Oregon Judicial Department.

Limited financial assistance is available to those meeting eligibility requirements.

Applications can be obtained by calling the Volunteer Resource Coordinator at 1-888-530-8999 ext. 8585 or 4578, or by visiting the CRB website at www.ojd.state.or.us/crb/



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