

Energy assistance limited

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

The Energy Assistance Program, located in the Industrial Park, has stopped taking applications in an effort to stretch funding.

"What we're seeing is an increase in the number of applications being submitted," Gayleen Adams, Tribal Social Services Acting Director, said. "Where there used to be an average of ten applications submitted a week, we're now seeing up to forty."

The Warm Springs Energy Assistance Program is in place to assist low-income tribal member families who need help paying their electricity bills. The program is funded by a \$114,000 federal grant.

"These funds are meant to last until the end of March. However, we were looking at depleted funds by the end of

January if we didn't take steps." Approximately 80 percent of available funding has been used so far to assist qualified applicants.

The program is designed to assist tribal members within the 97761 area code.

"We have received applications from tribal members who live outside the area, but we're not able to assist them."

The move to stop accepting applications was not an easy decision to make by the program staff. "We are considering options to ensure that the funding lasts throughout the time period, but so far it's just ideas."

NeighborImpact Energy Assistance in Madras, which has traditionally assisted Warm Springs residents, has been referring applicants back to Warm Springs. "They're telling people that as long as Warm Springs has this funding, they're not able

to receive assistance from Madras."

Adams said her office is working on submitting another application for additional funding for energy assistance.

"In the meantime, if someone has any ideas on how we can stretch the funding that we do have, we're open to ideas that will benefit our community. We strive to provide services for eligible households, seniors, disabled, and homes with young children. To me, this includes our community, not just those identified."

The program may resume accepting application by spring break.

"For emergency services, we would like to stress that we are a last-resort program to rely on."

The Energy Assistance Program is located in the Vocational Rehab building on Holliday Road.

Locked-in event slated for March 5

Looking for a place to let your children safely run loose for hours and hours? Bring them to the Lock-in slated for March 5--postponed from a date this month.

They'll release a ton of pent-up energy with a variety of activities, including games, crafts, sports, music and dancing, and other fun.

During the event they'll also learn ways to avoid drugs, alcohol and other unhealthy activities, according to organizers.

Children in grades K-6 will have the run of the community center from 5 p.m. -10 p.m. and those in grades 7-12 will be there from 11 p.m.-7 a.m.

Late hours are chosen because those are the hours when

teens get in trouble and have run-ins with law enforcement.

Up to 200 youths are expected to attend.

Call 541-553-3205 for details or to volunteer. The Prevention Coalition is the group organizing the event.

Carb Counting Series

Nutritionist Linda Porter is offering a series of educational presentations entitled "Carbohydrate Counting".


Meetings will be held on Thursday, February 17, 24, and March 3 for a total of three

classes at the Kitchen Conference Room at the clinic.

This is a series which will total three hours of education. Participants will get the most benefit from attending all three meetings.











Wedding Announcement

David Lucei and Tina Polk are to be married on February 11, 2011 at the Baker Church.



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Important information about the \$3.4 billion Indian Trust Settlement

For current or former IIM account holders, Owners of land held in trust or restricted status, or their heirs

There is a proposed Settlement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, a class action lawsuit about individual Indian land held in trust by the federal government. This notice is just a summary. For details, call the toll-free number or visit the website listed below.

The lawsuit claims that the federal government violated its duties by (a) mismanaging trust funds/assets, (b) improperly accounting for those funds, and (c) mismanaging trust land/assets. The trust funds include money collected from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, and oil and gas production from land owned by American Indians/Alaska Natives.

If you are included in the Settlement, your rights will be affected. To object to the Settlement, to comment on it, or to exclude yourself, you should get a detailed notice at www.IndianTrust.com or by calling 1-800-961-6109.

Can I get money?

There are two groups or "Classes" in the Settlement eligible for payment. Each Class includes individual IIM account holders or owners of land held in trust or restricted status who were alive on September 30, 2009.

Historical Accounting Class Members

- Had an open individual Indian Money account ("IIM") anytime between October 25, 1994 and September 30, 2009, and
- The account had at least one cash transaction.
- Includes estates of account holders who died as of September 30, 2009, if the IIM account was still open on that date.

Trust Administration Class Members

- Had an IIM account recorded in currently available data in federal government systems any time from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
- Owned trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- Includes estates of landowners who died as of September 30, 2009 where the trust interests were in probate as of that date. This means you have asked a court to transfer ownership of the deceased landowner's property.

What does the Settlement provide?

- A \$1.5 billion fund to pay those included in the Classes.
- A \$1.9 billion fund to buy small interests in trust or restricted land owned by many people.
- Up to \$60 million to fund scholarships to improve access to higher education for Indian youth.
- A government commitment to reform the Indian trust management and accounting system.

How much can I get?

- Historical Accounting Class Members will each get \$1,000.
- Trust Administration Class Members will get at least \$500.
- If you own a small parcel of land with many other people, the federal government may ask you to sell it. You will be offered fair market value. If you sell your land it will be returned to tribal control.

If you believe you are a member of either Class and are not receiving IIM account statements, you will need to call the toll-free number or visit the website to register.

What are my other rights?

- If you wish to keep your right to sue the federal government about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **April 20, 2011**.
- If you stay in the Settlement you can object to or comment on it by **April 20, 2011**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object/comment.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will hold a hearing on June 20, 2011, to consider whether to approve the Settlement. It will also consider a request for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses in the amount of \$99.9 million. However, Class Counsel has fee agreements that would pay them 14.75% of the funds created for the Classes, which could result in an award of \$223 million. The Court may award more or less than these amounts based on controlling law. If approved, these payments and related costs will come out of the Settlement funds available for payment to Class Members.

If you wish, you or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost. For more information, call or go to the website shown below or write to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877.

University of Oregon Library
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one or both Classes.

more information:

1-800-961-6109

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