

Effort toward successful grant writing

By Terri Harber
Spilyay Tymoo

Some of the participants were interested in more funding for the arts while another wanted additional money to help crime victims or local youth. And some represented relatively new nonprofits while others worked for longer established organizations.

All attended a two-day workshop in late January that focused on effectively securing grants. The workshop was presented by Potlatch Fund, an organization that inspires and seeks to expand philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country.

The trainer, Heather Miller, program coordinator with Potlatch, worked with the attendees on how to make attention-getting verbal and written presentations to groups that might provide them with grants.

Most of the people who attended haven't created a grant proposal before, said Ashley Aguilar, who works in the tribes' grant development office as the project assistant.

Creating concise, memorable proposals can help more grant money from the private sector flow toward Native American tribes, which receive only one-fifth of a cent out of every private grant dollar available each year.

It's not a good percentage when taking into account that Native populations in the United States make up roughly 2 percent of the national population, according to U.S. Census Bureau



Jefferson Greene and Leon Washington (from right) were among the participants in the grant seminar.

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estimates.

And making the need even greater is the poverty, unemployment and related problems that come with living on reservations.

"You'd think that (grant awards) would at least match-up with the percent of the population," she said. "We want to

change this, we want to help improve these groups' chances of securing grants."

"We are definitely underfunded," Aguilar said.

One of the exercises highlighted the importance of the classic "elevator speech"—this is the name for a 60-second chance to introduce one's self and their group to a possible grant provider. The two might meet up during a meeting, at a gathering or even in an elevator (hence the name) and have just a moment to talk.

Many of the participants spoke a little too long. A few had trouble getting to the point, such as why the need is important and

what a donation might be used to finance. The passion each one showed for their group was apparent, however.

The ability to obtain grants will be increasingly important as government funding continues to tighten up as a result of the recession. And lawmakers in Washington D.C. appear to be in a mood to cut the budget, which might also affect funding for various tribal programs.

This all means competition for private grants will be more fierce. This type of training will allow the people making grant requests do so with added confidence and, in turn, "help bridge that gap," Miller said.

One of Potlatch's own grant programs for Native Arts financing helped the Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association pay for its annual gathering of weavers last year. It was held in Warm Springs at Kah-Nee-Ta. The group received \$5,000 for the event.

Contact the tribes' grant proposal office for general help with grants. Potlatch has a variety of fundraising information and can help with such things as obtaining grants, getting a group nonprofit status and how to keep track of the group's finances. Visit potlatchfund.org for details.

Births

Alayjah Faith Zacarias-Johnson

Tyrone E. Johnson and LaToya L. Zacarias of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Alayjah Faith Zacarias-Johnson, born on January 26, 2011.

Alayjah joins brother Jermaine Johnson, 6.

Grandparents on the father's side are Cheryl Norton and Roy Johnson.

Grandparent on the mother's side is Adelita T. Zacarias.

Mathew Briseis Wewa

Erica Wewa of Warm Springs is pleased to announce the birth of her son Mathew Briseis Wewa, born on January 19, 2011.

Mathew joins brother Armando Becerra Jr., age 1.

Grandparents on the father's side are Melinda Frank and Winona Frank of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Arlene Bryant and Wilson Wewa of Warm Springs.

Dory Cinda Inez Mireles

Andrew and Allegra Gilbert of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Dory Cinda Inez Mireles, born on January 24, 2011.

Dory Cinda joins brother Thomas, 1, and sister Cheylene, 2.

Grandparents on the father's side are Nancy Marie Gilbert, and Thomas Mireles Jr. (deceased), both of Warm Springs.

Grandparent on the mother's side is Amanda Robinson of Warm Springs.

Eli Braxton Tewee

Diamond Tewee and Gena Smith of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Eli Braxton Tewee, born on January 15, 2011.

Grandparents on the father's side are the late Floyd Tewee Sr. of Warm Springs, and the late Vivian Yahtin of Ft. Belknap, Mont.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Gail Frank and Adrian Smith Sr., both of Warm Springs.

Howlak Tichum

Eloise Gregg Thornton, 1927=2011

Eloise Gregg Thornton of Madras passed away on Jan. 19, 2011. She was 83.

She was born Dec. 2, 1927 in Kent, Ore., to parents Grace (Holt) and Joseph Gregg. The family farmed wheat in the area until moving to Redmond to farm and run a dairy. She graduated from Redmond High School in 1946.

In 1947 she met and married Earl Thornton and they moved to Madras to farm and raise a family. She was a loving, hard-working mother to their three children.

Mrs. Thornton enjoyed her years in Madras, working at Jefferson Plywood Co., North Unit Irrigation District, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She will be fondly remembered for her work ethic and loyalty.

She loved being outdoors, walking or working in her yard, riding horses and playing tennis. She was an accom-



plished seamstress, sewing clothes for herself and her daughter Karen, and was always working on a project or thinking about the next one. She had a natural talent for drawing, painting and landscaping. Even at age 80, she was building fish ponds and a wishing well for her yard.

She made many friends throughout her career. The support and encouragement during this challenging period of her life was her health declined was invaluable to herself and her fam-

ily. She never gave up on anything easily, but her main concern was for family, and what she wanted most was for things to be easier on them over the last few weeks of her life.

She will be fondly remembered for her strong devotion to her children. She ran a tight ship and you always knew where you stood. She was a very successful, independent woman when it was not fashionable to be one, and applied this tenacity to every aspect of her life, building her three children with love, hard work, prayer and faith.

Survivors include her children, Karen L. Collins of Madras, Joe D. Thornton of Canyon City, and Steven G. Thornton of Madras; four grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Norman and Leason Gregg and sister Eileen Ferguson.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944 Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (at lunch from noon-1 p.m.)



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