

# Housing reports progress

By Duran Bobb  
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Housing and Urban Development has closed another three findings brought up in the agency's findings process, Scott Moses reported to Tribal Council earlier this week.

Housing has also been granted an additional 30 days to respond to findings.

HUD did not contest the request for additional time.

"HUD had to file a complaint because of deadlines," tribal attorney Howie Arnett said. "They also agreed that more time should be allowed to demonstrate the tribes could resolve these findings. We asked to have until May 10."

"We have been working on these findings continuously for

the past nine months," Councilman Moses said.

"Fortunately, three were closed. We have submitted documents to the Office of Native American Programs on all findings, and it's up to them to review and close."

Moses said Housing has submitted documentation for all findings, with three findings in review.

"There's a few more things that need to be submitted for other findings, but other than that, they have documentation for every single finding that they have open."

With the time extension, Housing plans to continue working on documentation to show that there has been movement in the department. ONAP continues to be supportive to the

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tribes, Moses said.

In closing, Scott had good news for the tribes.

"We requested and have been granted ten FEMA trailers to be used as homes on the reservation. Our pick-up date for those units is on April 7. They will be coming from Arkansas. We will be adding those units to the 8 homes acquired back in 2010. Those units will be installed in the Trailer Court area."

## Homebuyer class beginning in April

Reservations are being taken for the next homebuyer class.

The class will start April 14 and will meet every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. for six weeks.

The classes will cover top-

ics such as:

Calculating affordability, cleaning up credit, budgeting for home ownership, selecting a home, negotiating the deal, closing the loan, and hands-on-home maintenance tips and exercises.

Certificates will be given to

those who graduate.

Warm Springs Credit Enterprise and the Housing Authority are jointly sponsoring the course. Call Warm Springs Credit Enterprise at 541-553-3201 to sign up. Class size is limited to 25.

## TeleCo Corner

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For the first time in history, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the national body that regulates telecommunications, held an entire day for tribal leaders and telecommunications staff.

While the FCC has had a tribal liaison for many years, they recently created a brand new Office of Native Affairs.

Geoffrey Blackwell, attorney and member of the Chickasaw Nation, is the bureau chief of this new department. He and his staff organized this amazing day.

### National Tribal Telecommunications Meeting

The NTTA held a morning meeting to discuss out lobbying strategy for the day.

Essentially, the issues to be brought up focused on the sovereignty of tribal telecommunications.

Tribal lands have been traditionally underserved by the telecom providers that were to serve them, and at this point we want to ensure that tribes get the right to either serve themselves, or work with companies that will do so.

In addition, the other big issues have to do with universal service funding.

There is a proposal to change the fund as it exists today into a broadband fund. Basically, it would determine funding by broadband connection rather by telephone.

NTTA wants staff to under-

stand that tribal nations have been neglected by local telecom companies and those tribal phone companies that are working to deliver service to their reservations need help.

Any changes to rules that govern telecommunications, especially telecommunication funding, must recognize the special needs of tribes in order to bring parity to tribal lands.

### FCC Native Nations Day

As FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said in his opening remarks, "Technology touches every fabric of our society and all Americans should have access to these essential services. Our actions will further empower tribal nations to access and use the latest technologies to grow their businesses, increase their access to quality health care and education, reach 9-1-1 during emergencies, and receive public alerts and warnings."

The first half of the day, as part of its Native Nations Day, the FCC held an open commission meeting focused on tribal initiatives that will help expand access to vital communications, including broadband, wireless and radio services in Native communities across the United States.

The meeting included public presentations from several tribal leaders, and a nation-to-nation dialog session.

The commissioners unanimously adopted three items that will increase telecommunication

services to tribal areas. These included improving nation to nation consultation between Tribal Nations and the FCC, addressing wireless spectrum to improve access to mobile wireless communications on Native lands and expanding tribal opportunities for broadcast radio services to Native communities.

The second half of the day was more informal.

Held upstairs in a large meeting room, every half hour, a new group of bureau staff came and presented the issues with which they were dealing, that might impact tribal telecommunications.

This included the bureau staff from the Wireline, Wireless, and Media Bureaus.

These meetings gave tribal representatives a chance to question or present information to the top bureau staff regarding particular regulatory issues or more basic problems that were present in their reservations.

Numerous tribal leaders made very impassioned pleas to the FCC staff. They didn't talk about the complex regulatory issues. Rather, they brought up how underserved their communities are at this time and how critical improved telecommunications are to their people.

They also impressed on the FCC that tribal lands are sovereign nations and the FCC must ensure that regulations help the tribes move forward in building new telecommunications.

## For Boys & Girls Club Auction



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Cody Yeager (right) director of Corrections Education presented artwork from the inmates of Deer Ridge Correctional Institute to June Smith, Warm Springs Boys & Girls Club director. Art will be in the fundraising auction being held at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino on April 23. Items received so far include a Red Sox bat signed by Jacoby Ellsbury, Women and Men's Nike N7 sets, Jeanie Smith paintings, autographed Sherman Alexie book, U of O baseball tickets, and a Verizon Wireless smart phone. For more information contact June at 541-553-2323.

## Children's program this week at center

The Children's Program 2011 for ages 4 to 12 years old is through Thursday, March 24 at the Community Wellness Center. The theme is "Kids Are God's Special People."

There will be songs, stories, science time, crafts, snacks and games. The program began earlier this week, so don't miss the fun over the next couple of days. Parents are welcome. The pro-

gram is provided Friends Helping Friends Missions, Oregon Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Directors are Jim and Ruth Klinger. For information call 360-903-3160.

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