

## West Hills pathway project helps pedestrians

By Duran Bobb  
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Anyone who has ever walked from West Hills, day or night, knows how frightening it can be.

The road is narrow and steep. In the winter pedestrians worry about ice and traffic. In the summer, weeds taller than a grown man can force pedestrians to walk inside the driving lane.

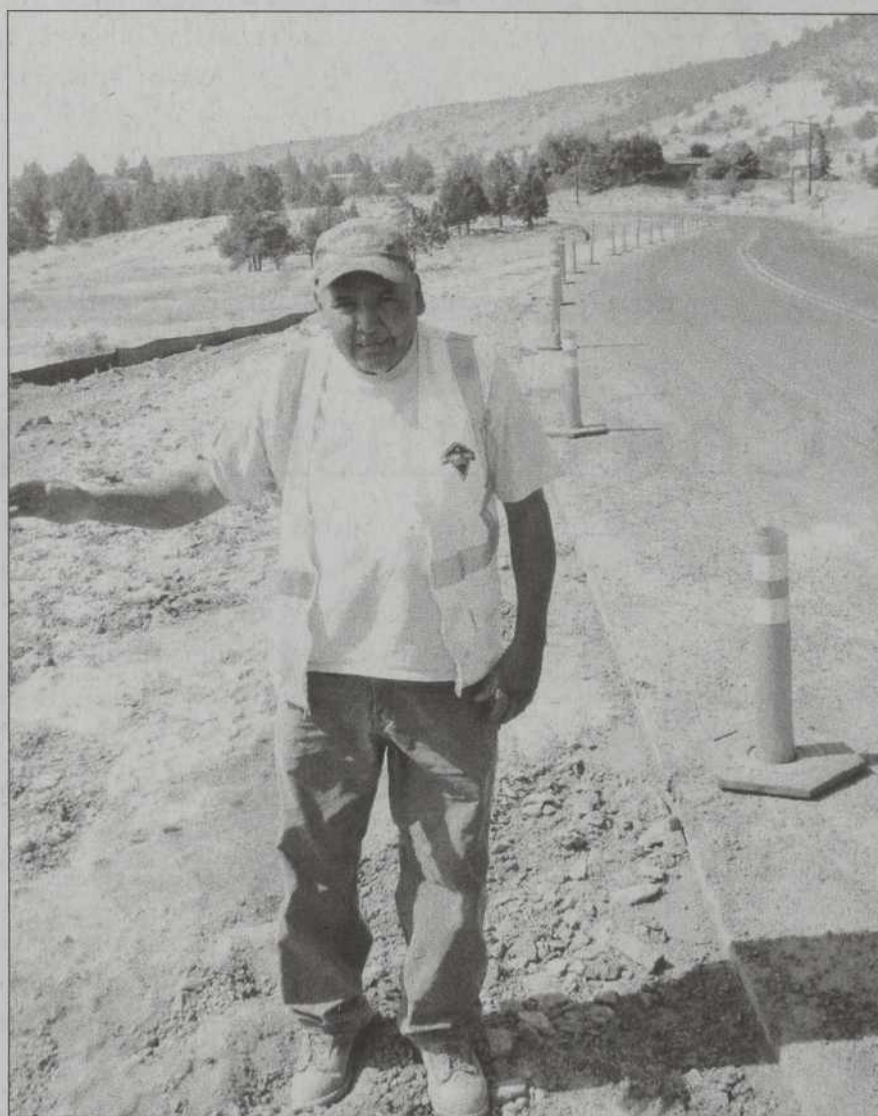
An American Recovery Reinvestment Act award has made it possible to change this treacherous trek, beginning in West Hills and expanding to other neighborhoods.

"Our ultimate goal is to figure out how to better connect all of the residential areas to the central community," Lonnie Macy said.

Warm Springs Ventures GM Jeff Anspach said that the construction of pedestrian pathways will begin in West Hills using ARRA funds. Later, the tribes will finish the rest of the paths with tribal shares of the BIA.

To begin the network of paths, traffic counts were conducted.

"There's a lot of foot traffic coming down from West Hills," Macy said. "The route they currently travel is dangerous. In some areas, they don't even



Isaac Mitchell is a construction worker with the pathway project. Before, he worked on the Trout Lake gravel project.

have a shoulder on the side of the road, and some routes have barriers. So this is being done mainly for the protection of people that are walking."

The West Hills pathway will be an asphalt trail which will provide a safe route for pedestrians, wheelchairs, bikes and baby strollers. The plan also

includes bus shelters for those who utilize Warm Springs Transit.

"This is a fairly closed-in residential community, and it's one of the older neighborhoods on the reservation. For a community this close to the administration building and community center, it should have a better

pathway."

The plan is to have the West Hills pathway completed by the end of September.

From there, planners are looking at the possibility of connecting Dry Creek to Warm Springs. "Or at least get a path going to Miller Heights."

Macy said his team is looking at existing trails and the possibility of improvements.

"If you look on the west side of the highway, there's a path people use. We could improve that to accommodate bicycle traffic and make it more enjoyable for joggers."

Other areas that are being considered for improvement include Greeley Heights and an improved path to Community Counseling.

"We don't have ARRA funds for those projects, but there are other sources of funding available."

The improved paths on the reservation will provide opportunities for tribal members to build healthy choices.

"So even if someone had a car, they might choose to walk instead. Or they might ride their bike. We like to think we're encouraging that choice, because Indian country has a high rate of diabetes and obesity."

The project currently employs an average of six people.

## Fall Cultural Classes on Mondays, Tuesdays

The evening Cultural Classes have started for the fall.

The classes are held in the basement of the Education building from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Wasco language is the focus of the Monday classes; and the Paiute language is the focus on Tuesdays. No Warm Springs language teachers are available for this series of classes.

The classes are open to the community, to tribal employees, and to defendants with the Tribal Court. Defendants can use the classes as an alternative to sentencing. The classes are provided by tribal

Parole and Probation, and the Culture and Heritage Department.

The first hour of the class is dedicated to the language lesson. The last half-hour covers tribal history, culture and traditional beliefs.

"It was tribal practice, whenever a person was in trouble or in crisis, the people would surround that person to offer support and guide the troubled person to be a positive part of our community," said Leona Ike, director of Parole and Probation.

The current series of classes is every week until Nov. 1.

## Cake decoration classes continue

The Warm Springs Recreation Department is presenting the Art of Cake Decoration on Mondays this month and in October. The classes are from 5:30-7 p.m.

The agenda for the Sept. 26 class is: review, make decorations, cake preparation, decorate a cake.

The agenda for the Oct. 3 class: review, make fondant,

color fondant, make fondant decorations, and cover a cake with fondant.

The final class is on Oct. 10, and the agenda is: review, decorate Halloween cup cakes, receive certificate of class participation.

The classes are being taught by cake decorator Yara Santos. To sign up call Carol at 541-553-3243; or 541-460-0939.

## Tribes receive grant money for law enforcement

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland says Oregon's Indian tribes will receive a \$5.8 million grant to bolster public safety on the nation's reservations.

The grant is part of \$120 million in federal money some 150 American Indian tribes are getting to share. The grants were announced last week.

The Oregon tribes receiving the federal money are the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Burns Paiute, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; the Confeder-

ated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Klamath Tribes.

The money will go toward methamphetamine enforcement; alcohol and substance abuse prevention; corrections and correctional alternatives; prevention of violence against women; prevention of elder abuse; juvenile justice, and tribal youth programs.

### Washington tribes

Meanwhile, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle announced

that ten western Washington American Indian tribes will split an \$11 million federal grant to bolster their law enforcement operations.

U.S. Attorney Jenny Durkan said that the Justice Department grant will go toward the purposes stated in the Oregon tribal grant, and also toward better training and equipment.

The Washington tribes that received the grant are Confederated Tribes of Chehalis; Hoh Tribal Business Committee; Lummi Nation; Makah Indian Tribe; Nisqually Tribe; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Puyallup Tribal Council;

Skokomish Indian Tribe; Squaxin Island Tribe; and Tulalip Tribes.

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 Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave, 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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