

Restoration dollars at work

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Judgement funds awarded to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in 2009 are being put into action, says Gerald Henrikson, restoration coordinator.

Under a plan outlined by Tribal Council, \$32 million of the settlement funds are directed to the tribe in its sole discretion for tribal operations and purposes.

Twenty-nine million is being used to fund the implementation of the Strategic Restoration Plan for the Natural Resources.

Six-million dollars are designated for a baseline assessment of the current conditions of the tribes' natural resources on the reservation—which includes the forest, range, roads, watersheds and cultural resources.

"That baseline was for doing an inventory of the natural resources on the reservation," Henrikson said. "That would lay the benchmark for what the land was like when the tribe took man-

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agement from the BIA under the 638 Contract. The tribes do the work of the BIA under the Indian Self-Determination Act."

The ultimate goal of the program is to restore the health of the watersheds on the reservation and increase the productivity of the land for the people.

That includes such aspects as wildlife, cultural foods, timber, livestock and fisheries.

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The first year of the program, Henrikson says, involves a lot of logistics.

"That's getting the equipment ready, purchasing, working on training to get people ready for the woods," he said. "There are

crews out building fences, doing thinning, working on road closures and various projects to restore watersheds."

Funds also help to restore huckleberry harvesting areas on the reservation.

Crews thin and remove brush and species that are competing with huckleberries.

The program is also helping to restore fire trails on the reservation.

"There are close to 100 miles of footpath and horse trails that were not working anymore," Henrikson said. "These are used to give the firefighters access to remote areas. There are two six-person crews that are working on thinning those down in order to help fire-proof the forest."

Other funds are being used to remove horses from the reservation.

"Foals have been going to homes," Henrikson stresses. "They haven't been killing them. Some go to bucking stock, and some get shipped out of the country."

Tribal Council launched the program by resolution, hoping to provide up to 15 years of work.

Composite Industries wins Manufacturer of the Year

Warm Springs Composite Products was chosen as Manufacturer of the Year during the recent Minority Enterprise Development Week at the Convention Center in Portland.

The Business Development Institute holds Minority Enterprise Development Week as part of its mission to provide

education and training for minority business development in Oregon.

Each year, Minority Enterprise Development Week features a morning of training sessions and mini workshops followed by a luncheon and the presentation of Business Development Institute's Minority Enter-

prise Awards.

Warm Springs Composite is wholly owned by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The company's 50 employees—80 percent of who have tribal affiliation—turn out components for fire-rated door systems.

Holiday 'Make and Take' cooking classes in Nov.

By Linda Porter
Warm Springs IHS

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we start thinking of our favorite holiday meals.

Nothing smells better than that fresh turkey coming out of the oven. Taste buds start to anticipate mashed potatoes and gravy, turkey and stuffing. Family favorites are anticipated and new recipes are examined.

The Nutrition Department is offering three Make and Take Cooking Classes for the month of November.

Each session will feature a new recipe or revised healthy traditional standby. Additionally, in one of the sessions each participant will take home a turkey cooking bag to make the holiday turkey one of the very best, with no muss, no fuss.

These sessions are open to the first 50 participants. The classes are from noon to 4 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Center kitchen conference room.

Thursday, Nov. 3: Cornbread Apple Stuffing.

Nov. 10: Green Bean Casserole. Nov. 17: Cranberry/Orange Relish.

Tribal symposium

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Representatives of American Indian tribes throughout the U.S. will take part in a Kansas City conference next month on gaps in services.

The 8th annual American Indian Symposium takes place Nov. 3 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Topics range from public health to the current implementation of historical treaties.

There also will be American Indian song and dance demonstrations and explanations.

More News from Indian Country

Teacher's passion leads to Native education job

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — Yatibaevy Evans, the new coordinator of the Alaska Native Education program, was in her last semester of pre-med classes at the University of Washington when a thesis project for her major, Comparative History of Ideas, prompted her to change her career path from medicine to education.

An Ahtna Athabascan, originally from Mentasta, Evans' thesis plan was to look into stereotypes that elementary students in grades 5 to 8 held of Native Americans.

"I was interested in preconceptions," she explained.

To obtain data, Evans visited fifth through eighth grade classrooms in the Seattle area dressed in Native regalia — a summer moosehide dress and beaded moccasins made by her grandmother for her West Valley High School graduation.

She would talk about her culture and Native Americans in the Lower 48, before asking students to answer a list of questions.

While the students were filling out the questionnaire, Evans would leave the classroom, change into street clothes, return to the classroom and resume the conversation.

The students were surprised to see Evans in everyday clothes and not Native regalia.

"They thought I dressed like that every day.

"We talked about that, and why they were thinking Native Americans had to look like that, and why they were not looking at Native Americans (without regalia) as a living, breathing, part of a unique, amazing culture," Evans said.

Evans' research confirmed much of what she thought non-Native children were assuming about Native Americans and that most of their impressions came from textbooks, the media, etc. — that Native Americans were part of the past, not part of present day society.

"It was very thought pro-

voing and showed me there was a lot of work to be done," Evans said.

"It made me realize that I really wanted to be a voice for Native Americans. We are here and we are a big part of society," Evans said.

"I wanted to help Native American youth to realize their dreams and potential and carry on their vision wherever they are at," Evans said.

Instead of applying to medical school as previously planned, Evans enrolled at John Hopkins University and earned a master of arts degree in education.

Her classroom experience includes interning in a third grade classroom and being hired as a kindergarten teacher in the same Maryland school for the next school year.

In July, Evans was hired as coordinator of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's Alaska Native Education program, after she, her African-American husband, Lewis Evans, and their three sons, Eli, 10, Robert, 8, and Michael, 3, returned to Alaska.

Lewis was in the Army when the couple married in 2000, and they left the state shortly afterwards when he was transferred to his next post. Evans was a stay-at-home mom raising three sons, while continuing her education.

But Alaska was always on the couple's mind.

"It was always our dream to return home," Evans said.

When Lewis was honorably discharged in 2005, he began applying for positions in the state. He now works with the Wounded Warriors program at Fort Wainwright.

And Evans' desire to work with Native youth also has been fulfilled as coordinator of the Alaska Native Education program.

Funded primarily by federal grants, the ANE program started in the school district in 1974, to meet the academic needs of Alaska Native and American Indian students.

"When we come together, we see the value of each culture. We all have great attributes and should combine them."

The program supports a coordinator, a secretary, a graduation success coach/attendance liaison, a family advocate, and tutors in eight elementary and four middle schools. The school district funds tutors at three high schools and the Alaska Room, a cultural arts program for grades three through six.

"Each part of the program has the same goals," Evans said, "To have students succeed and have the best outcome in their lives.

"We want to support students and see that they don't fall through the cracks and they graduate from high school."

Evans is setting up a mentoring program at Randy Smith Middle School, to support Native students. It's similar to a mentoring program Big Brothers Big Sisters operates in the school district where students meet one-on-one with a mentor on a weekly basis.

Evans is a new volunteer in the BBBS program. She also will be a volunteer mentor at Randy Smith once the new ANE program gets under way, and she is recruiting volunteers for both programs.

"It's critical to develop self confidence in our children and prepare them for challenges in high school and beyond," Evans said. "It will help them to stand up to life and peer pressure."

Another of Evans' aims is to introduce "Western ways of knowing, and Native ways of knowing," into the ANE program.

"Both are different streams of knowledge and both are of equal value," she said. "When we come together, we see the value of each culture. We all have

great attributes and should combine them."

After living out of state for more than a decade, Evans is reconnecting with relatives and friends.

Her cousin, Suraiya John of North Pole, is happy to be seeing Evans face-to-face again rather than on Facebook.

The two women bonded as teens when both attended Culture Camp in Nabesna, John said.

"We both have been taught our traditional values by our grandparents and we are carrying them on," she said.

Evans' educational interests reflect her parents' career paths.

Her mother, Donna Galbraith, is the first Athabascan to earn a medical degree and is a medical director at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage.

Galbraith is happy that her daughter followed her heart when changing her career paths, and understands her reasons for doing so.

"She's always been outgoing, never afraid to speak up, and very people-oriented. She is very focused, but also very dedicated to her family, her marriage and her children," Galbraith said.

"I'm really proud of her for taking this job. She'll bring a lot to the table."

Evans' father, Jeff Mann, principal at Hunter Elementary School, describes his daughter as "passionate and determined, who always does things in a heartfelt way."

He recalled his daughter receiving the "Hammer Award" for her "persistence and determination, when she was a freshman member of the West Valley High School Swim Team.

"She's always been someone who has set a goal for herself and stuck to it and persevered to get to it."

Despite his teaching and administrative experience, Mann doesn't attempt to serve as his daughter's education mentor.

Senate bill to help Indian energy

(AP) — U.S. Sen. John Barrasso has introduced a bill to give American Indian tribes more tools to develop their energy resources and to remove barriers to economic development.

The Wyoming Republican says tribes have expressed concerns for years about federal laws and regulations on energy development.

He says tribes that want to

create jobs often face delays and uncertainty because of policies coming out of Washington.

Barrasso says his proposal would give the tribes greater control over the management and development of their own trust resources.

The bill also includes a demonstration project for biomass energy production from tribal forest lands, rangelands and other federal lands.

Chinook salmon pens vandalized

TIBURON, Calif. (AP) — Federal and local authorities are investigating vandalism at an environmental studies center that led to the release tens of thousands of baby Chinook salmon from holding pens, a practice animal rights activists have criticized as inhumane.

Last Saturday, for the second time in a week, someone cut the pens' netting, releasing 20,000 juvenile salmon called smolts nearly a month ahead of schedule. More than 40,000 fish

being raised by students at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma in partnership with the Tiburon Salmon Institute were released early on Oct. 3.

Brooke Halsey, director of the institute, called the vandals "cowards."

Marin County Sheriff's Office and the FBI are investigating the incidents.

After the first release, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals applauded the net cutting, calling the pens cramped.

Exhibit examines tribal treaties in Minn.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The organizers behind a new exhibit on tribal treaties in Minnesota are hoping to spark new discussions about treaty rights.

The exhibit is called "Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations."

It's already been shown on the White Earth Reservation. It's on display this month at the Becker County Museum in Detroit Lakes, and travels to more than a dozen other locations statewide in the next 15 months.

Organizers say tribal leaders signed the treaties under great duress, but the treaties are liv-

ing documents that have protected the rights of the Dakota and Ojibwe peoples to exist as sovereign nations.

The exhibit is a collaboration among Dakota and Ojibwe tribal elders, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center, and the Smithsonian Institution.

"I try not to give too much advice, and mostly listen," he said.

The best part, he said is having Evans and her family back in Fairbanks.

"To go out on a weekend walk with her husband and boys is fantastic," he said.