

IDA initiative helps save for your dream

By Vesta Johnson, USC Masters in Social Work Program

Growing up on the reservation is different from growing up anywhere else in the world. A culture, or what is normal, is different from other communities. Not to say it is right or wrong, but just to say it is different from other places.

There are ceremonies celebrating the seasons of the year and the foods our Creator has blessed us with. There are rights of passages ceremonies; for instance, the first kill ceremony. There are name-giving ceremonies where individuals receive an Indian name passed on from generation to generation within a family or clan. We are a unique and beautiful race of human beings.

With the generous resources our Creator has given to us, supply and demand have finally arrived at the door step of Warm Springs and we know as a community we must take only what we need.

Today, the economy is now clearly affecting those who live on reservations, as compared to years ago. During the Great Depression, my own grandmother Atwai Lucinda Smith and her family didn't know there was a depression, as their existence was based upon mother earth and not the stock market.

In Oregon, whether on or off the reservation, we Oregonians are fortunate enough to have state legislators who look out for the best interest of their constituents. In 1999, Oregon legislators brain stormed and came up with a program where individual state citizens could begin to save for their dreams.

Specifically, the five areas individuals can dream about and make happen by saving and matching programs are:

1. Home ownership down payment assistance;
2. Home remodels;
3. Education;
4. Business start-up; and,
5. Business expansion.

Oregon allows individuals to contribute to the IDA Initiative in order to support and help the state citizens accomplish their dreams.

What do the individual contributors get out of it you may ask? Individual contributors of the state IDA initiative get the satisfaction of knowing they significantly contributed to the well-being of individuals, families, and children, as well as receiving a tax credit.

Here is an example: Individuals can save a minimum of \$25 a month and have a match of up to four times that amount deposited into their savings account. For instance, if you saved \$25 a month, you could potentially have up to \$100 per month contributed to your dream. That amount of savings adds up, as one month would total \$125 of cold hard cash directly into your account!

With the IDA initiative you can obtain valuable financial literacy and support through the program.

The program is free and requires a team effort to accomplish your dreams! There are many people in our com-

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munity who have embarked on this venture in order to be in a collaborative effort with one goal and objective to accomplish.

Yes, you and your dream. It is a fabulous and superb opportunity for anyone to participate in.

Like any program, there are income requirements, but the old adage is "It never hurts to ask."

There are also program limits individuals must adhere to and be involved in, such as the financial literacy classes and your chosen asset specific classes.

In the end, you the individual are the one who walks away with knowing your hard work, saving and knowledge will lead to accomplishing the goal you set forth, whether the goal is home ownership, home remodel, education, business start-up or expansion.

What is your dream? What do you aspire to in your future? Most importantly, know there are resources out there to support and empower you to move closer and closer to obtaining your dream! You can do it with the IDA initiative!

Elk season

Elk hunting to most Native Americans always was much more than a recreation and a collection of trophy racks as it is for sportsmen. Hunting and fishing remains to be a part of Warm Springs tribal culture, livelihood and a way of life. Life revolves around our tribal functions. The Washat songs tell about the culture and heritage such as all ceremonies including roots, first salmon, huckleberries, first kill, etc.

According to the United States Constitution, treaties are "the Supreme Law of the Land." Despite all of that, our treaty hunting seasons are getting shorter. Not very long ago we had no seasons, hunting was always open. Then there was a season for a few months, then two months, now days—the season is less than one month.

We need an extended elk season. The elk are scattered up in the high country this year, and in the most part didn't start their migration yet. As elk hunters know, deep snow makes the elk migrate. This elk season we had warm California rain clouds and the Hawaiian express rain clouds, not much snow, which made hunting difficult and time consuming.

We need a later or permanently extended elk season, because the phenomena will occur again in the future. Hunting and fishing remain the primary means of subsistence for many Indian families.

Filling our tags helps out a lot, and with extra high unemployment and an economy like it is with budget cuts on the horizon, most of us cannot depend on nepotism, our natural resources, or the overpopulation of consultants, high bonus employees, non-tribal member employees, or white hard hats.

Respectfully,
Anthony LittleLeaf

Positive event

The First Annual Rock Your Mocs gathering proved to be successful. This was a gathering of friends and family, held November 15 at the Community Center.

Volunteers who stepped forward are sincerely appreciated. Departments that supported our positive event for the children and families included KWSO, Community Health, and the Community Center staff.

I apologize to all who may have taken offense and want you to know that the children had fun and everyone enjoyed their meal and music. Thank you for participating! Be proud, Wear you mocs!

From **Marge, Rachel, and Joey** (we had fun cooking the meal for everyone).

In this together

To the tribal membership,

I would like to encourage our membership not to feed into the negativity beginning to circulate again due to the Tribal Council election season. We have to be able to shun this behavior as the old people did in the past. As long as we harbor it, or listen to the negativity, is how long it will breath in our community. I say over and over, negativity is evil, we cannot feed into it, because when we allow evil to dwell in our community or within our membership, then this evil can cause bad things to happen within our community and our membership.

I would like to thank those people, who went out and got their education and are giving back to this tribe and contributing to our tribal economy, because it was the tribe that invested in their education. I am so disappointed in those people in whose education our tribe invested, and who now feel the tribes owe them a living, or they feel entitled to mistreat their people and their leaders.

When I left to further my education, my mother and father told me to remember your tribe is investing in your future so you can give back to the people and contribute your knowledge to the tribal leaders and never to forget my traditional teaching. My parents also told me not to become a "professional student" by living off the educational monies. I was to get my education, get good grades and graduate fast as possible and get back to work.

I did that, I received two Associate Degrees in a year and a half, made the Dean's list and worked three jobs during the time I was in college. I have been in my current job for nearly 20 years, helping people overcome the same struggles I experienced in life.

I feel fortunate to have a job and am so thankful for the support tribal leaders, the tribal organization and my family have given me to be successful.

Yes, our Tribes are struggling, but as a People we need to be strong for our fellow membership and our tribal leaders. We have to get away from the negativity. We are

Christmas Wishes...



Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb looks forward to the holidays!

all in this together, hard times and good times.

Our past elders taught us to pull together as families. Maybe in these struggles we can learn to rely on each other again based on our old teaching. Spreading rumors, often not true, to belittle our leadership and demean our membership is not a tribal way of life. Those who continue to do this, it is up to you to change that behavior.

Thank you for taking time to read this. **Leona A. Ike**

Holiday spirit

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Indian Head Casino are dedicated to making a positive and rewarding difference in the lives of the Warm Springs community members and people in our neighboring communities.

Our goal is to provide contributions to tribal member youth and senior citizens in the health, education, community development and environment.

This holiday season Indian Head Casino is sponsoring a Christmas Party on Friday, December 14 for the Warm Springs Foster Children and their foster parents. This is in collaboration with the Childrens Protective Services.

Also, a canned food drive will be done throughout the month of December for the Warm Springs Senior Citizens. Customers can drop of non-perishable canned foods at the Casino Players Club. Every Monday in December, if you bring in one or two canned food items, you can receive \$5 in Slot Play. See Players Club for more information.

My apologies

Hello, Warm Springs. It has taken me a long time to gather up my thoughts together for

all of you. But here it is. I would like to say, "I am sorry if I have ever wronged you or your family."

I know I have done a lot of wrong to a lot of people by stealing things in the past. It hurts to know what I was doing it for was "drug money," etc.

And it took me more than five years to be trusted amongst those such as my family. It breaks my heart that I was so selfish and didn't care.

I am now here in treatment, to better myself. While I was down there I told everybody for about a year and a half now that I've been trying to stay sober. I'll say no to drinking and smoking, and those who really know me know I've been saying no to drugs.

And I would like to thank the woman who has opened up my eyes to doing all this. I love you with all of my heart. I wouldn't be in this state of mind if it were not for you. You mean the world to me. What I was doing in life was wrong. You showed me that there is a better life than drinking and smoking.

It has cleared my mind. And now that I'm sober and clean I know what it's like to be a man about things. And I still would be doing the same things and not caring, like drinking, etc., if it were not for this one woman who has changed my life completely. If it were not for her I wouldn't be able to be putting my life together.

When I get out I'll have my own apartment in Portland, and a job after I get out of this 60-day program.

With that said I would like to apologize to all I have hurt or wronged. And to my family I thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. I really want you guys to know that I love all of you. I would

like to thank my big sister the most, for staying by my side. To my little brothers, my little sisters, who I know put through some nerve-wrecking, as I can really get under their skin: I would like to say I love you guys with all my heart. And to my woman I love you with everything I've got. I don't want to lose you. You are the whole reason why I started on this road in the first place. I want to be able to give you everything, to become a family man. To take care of you and your son means a lot to me.

And to the tribe, for those who I have left out, you are in my heart. And to my best bro's, I love you, I sing the good songs for you, Mr. MB, Mr. SB., Mr. SP, you guys mean a lot to me. I pray about you a lot. I pray for everyone in a good way. I love all of you.

To many of them (a'ho'e's) to everyone.
Cody Lesina

Thank you, W.S. Tribes

Dear Members of the Warm Springs Reservation,

It has come to our attention that you have never been thanked by our Native American Student Union for your generous donations of salmon to our annual spring powwow.

On behalf of the Southern Oregon University Native American Student Union 2012-13, we apologize for the failure in the past to show gratitude for your generosity. And secondly, we express our appreciation for your donation to the spring powwow.

Sincerely,
The Southern Oregon University Native American Student Union