



Spilyay Tymoo

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Cover Oregon centers open for business

The Cover Oregon health insurance exchange is now open.

Visit the Family Resource Center or the Indian Health Services clinic for assistance in accessing the exchange.

At the Health and Wellness Center, check in at the reception desk; and at the Family Resource Center, visit the library.

This effort is part of the Affordable Care Act, ensuring everyone has health insurance coverage. If you do not have insurance, or if you only go to IHS for health care, you should stop by one of the two locations to learn more about your options.

Health workers in the community estimate that close to 2,300 tribal members are without insurance, and will benefit by participating in the Cover Oregon program.

Many of these individuals will qualify for expanded Medicaid, said Deborah Jackson-



Joie Chavez-Simtustus, Phyllis Shawaway, Tricia Melvin, Deborah Jackson and Mitch Duvaney (from left) are welcoming customers at the Cover Oregon center at the clinic.

Alvarez, IHS business office manager. Deborah is also the coordinator of the Cover Oregon project at the clinic.

Expanded Medicaid is available

to adults ages 19-64 with income up to 138-percent of the federal poverty level. For an individual, for instance, that number is \$15,282 per year.

Because of unemployment on the reservation, many tribal who are not covered by insurance will qualify for the expanded Medicaid.

The Affordable Health Care Law, as implemented in Oregon through Cover Oregon, offers new opportunities for tribal members to access health insurance and health care services.

Benefits to Indian Country of the Affordable Care Act include:

Permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; the strengthening of the Indian Health Services; and an increase in the affordability of health insurance coverage. There are no premiums or deductibles for members who are eligible for IHS services. There are no co-pays for services received from an Indian health care provider or through referral under contract health services.

Justice grant helps W.S. tribal programs

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received word recently of a U.S. Justice Department grant award totaling \$1.67 million.

There may be some delay in the receipt of the grant funds due to the federal government shut-down, said Stan Suenaga, general manager of Warm Springs Public Safety.

But the grant award is still welcome news, he said. The Justice Community Policing grant will provide Warm Springs Public Safety with \$650,000, to be used for equipment and training, Suenaga said.

Funding will also be available for another tribal court prosecutor, a juvenile prosecutor and a truancy officer. These positions will be funded for three years through the grant, Suenaga said.

Funding for the truancy officer position comes at a good time, as the tribes and school district will be opening the Warm Springs k-8 school next fall, Suenaga said.

Public Safety, with help from the Warm Springs Health and Human Services Branch, submitted the application for these grants.

The \$1.67 million to Warm Springs was the largest single amount awarded to an Oregon tribe. A total of \$4.2 million was awarded to five Oregon tribes, including Springs. The announcement from the Justice Department came during a conference held Celilo Falls.

Funding to Warm Springs will also benefit the alcohol and drug prevention programs, and provide for a justice systems strategy project.

The grants to Oregon tribes are part of \$190 million the Justice Department is giving to 110 tribes, Alaskan native villages and tribal groups, to offer remedies to alcohol and substance abuse, and violence against women.

- Dave McMechan

Toughest budget process under way

Tribal Council has proposed a 2014 tribal budget that calls for a decrease of more than \$10.5 million from the current year budget. There are significant reductions throughout the organization, including per capita.

Council is proposing a balanced budget that funds the necessary functions of the tribal government, such as public safety and utilities, and functions mandated by the tribal constitution.

The sharp decrease in expenditures from the general fund is due to the on-going lack of revenue to the tribes. Tribal enterprises are projected to contribute a total of \$1.75 million under the 2014 proposal. For 2014, Power and Water

shows a dividend of \$1 million, and Composite Products shows a dividend of \$750,000. The casino-resort, Credit, and Ventures show no dividend to the tribes. Dividend revenue in 2009 was \$14,665,000 between all the enterprises, and nearly five years later the balance is declined to \$1.75 million. This decline in revenue is the primary basis for the budget crisis the tribes are facing today.

The financial dilemma of the tribes has been a growing problem for several years, and has come to a point where more severe action is required. Having taken office earlier this year, the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council is now dealing with a situation that began some years ago.

"We've seen this coming at least since 2001," Councilman Carlos Smith said during the recent budget sessions. Over the past decade or so, the tribes have expended about \$100 million more than they have taken in, Smith said.

In the 2014 proposal, per capita expenditures show a significant reduction: from a total of about \$6.4 million in 2013, to just under \$1.6 million in 2014, a reduction of \$4.84 million.

If the tribes were to continue with no budget changes, the reserve funds would be completely depleted in 2015, according to the financial forecast. In his budget statement, Secretary-Treasurer Jake Suppah states: "The proposed 2014 budget

will not be finalized until we have completed meetings with the tribal membership. We need your input before the Tribal Council makes final decisions and takes action to approve a final budget plan for 2014, by November 30, 2013."

The 2014 proposed budget has been posted at the tribal administration building, Warm Springs Market, the post office, Indian Health Services, the Agency and Simnasho longhouses, and the Sidwalter and Seekseequa fire halls, and Three Warriors Market. Council will soon announce the schedule of district and General Council meetings on the 2014 proposed budget.

- Dave McMechan

Tribes' new mobile clinic ready for service

The Warm Springs community dedicated the mobile health clinic last week, and the facility was put to good use right away, offering flu shots.

Wilson Wewa, of the Senior Program, Don and Lola Sohappy, and Councilwoman Evaline Patt provided the dedication services. A lunch was served afterward. About 70 people were on hand for the dedication, held outside the administration building.

The mobile clinic provides medical and dental services. The facility is needed to serve tribal



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

members, especially elders, who live away from the clinic, such as Simnasho, Seekseequa and Sidwalter.

The mobile unit is a project of the Community Health Program, the Joint Health Commission, tribal Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service.

Tammy Wilson, Caroline Cruz, Wilson Wewa, Don Sohappy, Lola Sohappy, and Councilwoman Evaline Patt (from left) were on hand for the dedication.



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Warm Springs Oregon



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See page 2 for details