

# Story-telling project for community health

When was a time when the Warm Springs community was very healthy and everything was right?

What is currently working well for our community? What programs are currently successful in the community?

What challenges exist?

Answers to these questions will help guide health workers in serving the tribal membership.

To learn the answers, the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services are sponsoring a story-telling project (see article at right).

The stories will be audio- and possibly video-recorded, and transcribed. Elders of the reservation community are encouraged to participate. KWSO and the Spilyay Tymoo will conduct the interviews.

Information from these stories will help the Health Authority and Department of Human Services to support existing community strengths, and develop potential new approaches.

The story-telling sessions will focus on elders of the reservation, but health advocates and service providers and recipients may also participate.

A goal is to help the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services build trust, support existing community strengths, and close the gaps in health

## Findings in State of Equity Report

The Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority in 2011 published the State of Equity Report.

This report studied key performance measures by race and ethnicity. As stated in the report introduction:

"The overall purpose of the State of Equity Report is to describe the need for the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority services and programs, customer service quality, and related outcomes by race and ethnicity in Oregon. "Information in the report is intended to be used for policy and program development, and as a baseline by which to measure future progress..."

The agencies collected data analyzing the effectiveness of services—by race and ethnicity as compared to non-Latino whites—from:

The Children, Adults and Families Division; Seniors and People with Disabilities; Addictions and Mental Health; and Medi-

cal Assistance Programs, among others.

A total of 31 key performance measures (KPMs) were reviewed for the report. Of the 31 KPMs, 20 showed disparity; six showed no disparity; and five could not be interpreted.

Native Americans showed disparity in 16 of the 20 KPMs.

As examples, here are some of the key performance measures that were analyzed:

Percentage of engaged clients who complete alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse treatment and are not abusing alcohol or drugs.

Percentage of adults employed after receiving AOD abuse treatment.

Percentage of parents who have their children returned to their custody after receiving AOD treatment.

Percentage of births where mothers report the pregnancy was intended.

As another KPM example with finding:

Percentage of women who initiated pre-natal care in the first three months of pregnancy by income level.

And the finding: "Among

low-income women, compared to non-Latina Whites, the percentage is lower for Native Americans and Asian American/Pacific Islanders. Among higher income women, compared to non-Latina Whites, the percentage is lower for Native Americans, Latinas, and African Americans."

In learning how to address some of the inequities revealed in the State of Equity Report, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority are sponsoring the information-gathering project (see article at left).

Some of the findings in the State of Equity Report:

• 33 percent of Native Americans are employed after receiving AOD abuse treatment, compared to 57 percent of Whites.

• 4.4 percent of Native American females age 15-17 are pregnant, compared to 1.8 percent of White females

• 38 percent of Native American adults currently smoke cigarettes, compared to 20 percent of White adults.

results on the reservation. The project is a way for the agencies "to learn the best

practices for improving health outcomes used by other Native American and urban In-

dian communities across Oregon."

— Dave McMechan

## Pumpkin Patch Fun Trip to Liepold Farms

Warm Springs Recreation will host the Pumpkin Patch Fun Trip on Friday, Oct. 11. The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m., returning at 4:45 p.m.

There will be a corn maze, hay ride, and hay maze. Six dollars per person. The trip will be Liepold Farms at Boring, Oregon.

Bring good walking shoes and a warm jacket,

and a sack lunch. Also for purchase at the farm will be bags of apples, varieties of squash, pumpkins of all sizes and colors. Pony rides, \$5; and the pumpkin pull, \$1 for three pulls.

Stop by the Community Wellness Center to fill out a permission slip; or call 541-553-3243 for additional information.

## Recreation plans for Halloween Contest, Parade

The Community Wellness Center and Recreation Department will host the Employees Halloween Costume at the Community Center Social Hall. The contest will be from 12:04-12:52 p.m. on Halloween day.

Recreation will serve a light lunch for the event.

Contest categories will be: Best Homemade Costume, Most Unique Costume, Scariest Halloween Character, Silliest Costume, and Best Storybook.

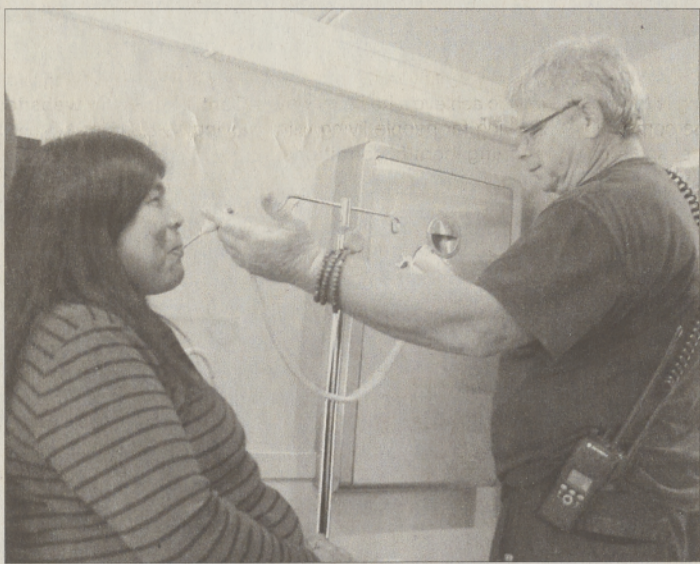
The Community Wellness Center and Rec-

reation will also host the Halloween Carnival on October 31, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Fun and games begin at about six o'clock.

There will be a costume contest for adults and children, judging to begin at 7:30. Categories:

Best Homemade, Funniest, Best Storybook, Mightiest Super Hero, and Most Unique Costume.

For more information contact the Community Wellness Center and Recreation Department at 541-553-3243.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay



Caroline Cruz (left) has her temperature checked by Troy Thom at the new mobile clinic; Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman Evaline Patt cut the ribbon dedicating the new facility.

4202 Holliday St. Call 541-615-0555

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### UPCOMING OCTOBER PROMOTIONS

- "Spooktacular Cash" Saturdays - Win up to \$1000, drawings hourly 7-10pm
- "Friday Fright Nights" drawings - Win up to \$800, drawings hourly 7-10pm
- "Jack o Lanterns for Cash" Tuesdays - win up to \$350, drawings hourly 1-4pm
- Halloween Costume Contest - Thursday, Oct 31st - Scariest, funniest, most creative categories and overall best costume \$350

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