



Spilyay Tymoo

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

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District meetings to address 2014 budget

Tribal Operations will take a cut of about 30 percent under the proposed 2014 tribal budget. This would be the largest single-year reduction for the tribal general fund budget.

A reduction of this size will necessarily impact all services provided by the tribes.

The Tribal Council is working with the community in determining how best to minimize and alleviate these impacts.

District meetings, each starting at 7 with dinner at 6 p.m., are scheduled on the 2014 budget proposal as follows:

Seekseequa, this Thursday, Oct. 17, Seekseequa Fire Hall.

Sidwalter, Monday, Oct. 21, Sidwalter Fire Hall.

Agency, Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Community Center.



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Council members meet with members regarding the 2014 budget.

Simnasho, Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Tribal Council has proposed a 2014 tribal budget that calls for a decrease of more than \$10.5 million from the current year budget.

Employee layoffs and reductions in workforce, and a reduction in the per capita payment, are all on the table in the 2014 proposal.

The problem facing the tribes is this: If operations were to continue

with no reductions, then the reserve funds would be completely depleted in 2015.

There has been reduced revenue to the tribes for a number of years, while spending continued mostly unchanged. For example:

Tribal dividend revenue in 2009 was \$14.665 million, among all the enterprises. For 2014 the project enterprise dividend is \$1.75 million. 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.

Without revenue sources provided in 2014, services and distributions must be reduced to balance the budget.

Member art show opening

The Annual Warm Springs Tribal Member Art Exhibit will be unveiled on Thursday, October 17. An opening reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Museum at Warm Springs.

For the reception there will be light refreshments, the Artists Awards ceremony, and the Traditional Wasco dancers.

The reception is free and open to the public. "We hope to see everyone here to support the local artists," said Natalie Kirk, museum curator.

For the Member Art Exhibit this year, there are two Judges Choice awards: One in the Contemporary category, and one in the Traditional category.

The 2013 Judges Choice award for a Contemporary work goes to Reynoldo Greystar, for his beaded vase.

The 2013 Judges Choice award for a Traditional work goes to Shayleen Macy, for her beaded bag.

This is the Twentieth Anniversary of the Tribal Member Art Exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs. You can reach the museum at 541-553-3331.

Cover Oregon sites serving tribes

You can learn more about Cover Oregon and the Native Health Insurance Exchange at two locations in Warm Springs.

Both sites have assistors who can help you learn more about what insurance you may qualify for. They can also help individuals apply for coverage, such as for expanded Medicaid.

At the Health and Wellness Center, check in at the reception desk, and at the Family Resource Center, check in at the Warm Springs Library.

The online aspect of the Cover Oregon program is still being worked out at the two sign-up locations. However, the IHS assistors have already helped several people

with written applications, said Phyllis Shawaway, IHS assistor.

"It's been going pretty good," she said. "We're seeing many people come in to sign up."

The assistors are also making house calls to homes, as part of the community outreach. Each outreach trip results in six or seven sign-ups, Phyllis said.

The computers at the library sign-up station are expected to be in operation this week, said Craig Graham, administrator of the Community Health Resource Center. The library also has charts and information explaining the qualifications for expanded Medicaid.

Perseverance is key to success for store manager

Lalani Wolfe began working at the Dollar Tree store in Madras a little over seven years ago.

She started as a cashier and freight handler, but within a short time the store management saw she had the initiative to do more. And they could see she was great at working with the public. Six months after first starting she was promoted to assistant manager.

Lalani continued to take on more responsibilities, working hard and learning all aspects of the running the store. Then earlier this year, she spent two months working at the Dollar Tree in Prineville, in the manager training program.

She returned to the Madras Dollar Tree in July, as the store manager. She works with 11 cashiers, and has three assistant managers. Apparently, Lalani is the first Native American to manage a store in the chain.

Lalani grew up in Warm Springs. Her first job was working with the Summer Youth program when she was 15. She worked for a time at Kah-Nee-Ta, in the gift shop and in house-



Dave McMechna/Spilyay

Lalani Wolfe, store manager of the Dollar Tree in Madras.

keeping. Then she worked for four years at the Early Childhood Education Center.

"I love kids," Lalani says. "I

have nine grandkids."

She liked working with the students at ECE, "but what I really enjoy doing is working with the pub-

lic," Lalani says.

She moved to Texas for a time, to be with her mother who was sick. She worked part-time in retail while

she was there. When Lalani came back to Central Oregon in 2006, she applied at the Madras Dollar Tree.

She was hired as cashier-freight after a series of three interviews. Since that time she has been working her way up.

Lalani lives in Madras now, as she is on-call at the store six days a week. But her love and concern for the Warm Springs community remain strong.

"It saddens my heart to know there are people who are losing their jobs," she says.

Lalani is always ready to work with Warm Springs on donation projects, such as the Back to School Barbecue, and holiday donation programs. The Dollar Tree helps with community projects throughout the region, she says.

For people on a budget the Dollar Tree is a great place to shop, because everything is \$1 or less. The store is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

See LALANI on 10

INDIAN HEAD CASINO

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