

# Good start for story-telling project

About 140 people attended the Canoe Family dinner and story-telling last week. Many of those on hand were youth, said Jolene Estimo Pitt, tribal Health and Human Services communications and community planner.

"Everyone pitched in to make this a successful event," said Estimo-Pitt, who organized the dinner and activities.

After dinner the NChi Wanapum Canoe Family, led by Jefferson Greene, gave a presentation on their recent journey and projects.

Next was an introduction to the story-telling project. The focus of this is community health. Sponsors are the



Sue Matters/KWSO

Head cook Myra J. Orange with event participants.

Oregon Health Authority, the state Office of Equity and Inclusion, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The goal is to determine how best to meet health needs of the tribal community. Some areas of service see a

disparity in results between tribal and non-tribal communities. The goal of the story-telling project is to determine ways of eliminating the disparity.

A full story-telling session will be scheduled in January of February.

The story-telling project "will help us better respond to the significant health disparities experienced by Native American and American Indian communities that are illustrated in the State of Equity Report," said Tricia Tillman, director of the state Office of Equity and Inclusion.

For more information on this project call 541-615-0141.

# Lamprey film premiere in Warm Springs on Jan. 13

The film *The Lost Fish* will premiere in Warm Springs at the community center at 6 p.m. on Jan. 13. Admission will free.

This half-hour film is produced jointly by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Freshwaters Illustrated.

The film explores the importance of lamprey to the Columbia Plateau tribes, how the decline of the lamprey has affected tribal cultural practices, and what the tribes are doing to make sure these ancient fish return to their native rivers and streams.

Following the screening will be a short question

and answer period with tribal scientists working on lamprey restoration projects.

Regarding the film and restoration work, Freshwater Illustrated states:

"One of the Pacific Northwest's oldest fish is disappearing, and along with it the sacred place it holds among many American Indian tribes. For a species that has squeezed through most of the earth's great extinctions, the sharp declines in Pacific Lamprey populations are a signal of how severely we have changed river ecosystems."

See the website thelostfish.org for more information.

# 2013 Year in Review

(Here is the second part of a look back at some of the memorable news events of the past year on the reservation.)

## April

The Confederated Tribes and school district 509-J continued the planning phase for the **Warm Springs K-8 Academy**. The current plan calls for construction to begin in early summer, with the completion target date of July 2014.

There had been some delay in tribes' securing funding from the USDA. The tribes had to demonstrate a secondary source of repayment, which this month they were able to accomplish. In other news:

In April the proposed **motorsports** project was moving forward toward a referendum.

The preliminary plans were

presented at several community meetings at each of the longhouses, and at other gatherings. Land-Use and the Natural Resources Branch have been involved through the process. The project is now at a point where further consideration would justify a referendum of the membership, set for May. Elsewhere:

The Culture and Heritage Department in April hosted a visit from the **University of Oregon Ichishkiin class**. The U of O group spent a day and half in Warm Springs, focusing mainly on the Culture and Heritage Language Program. They observed the language immersion program at Culture and Heritage. The immersion class is called Autni Ichishkiin Sapsikwat (Our Sacred Language School) and meets from 8 a.m. till noon on weekdays. In other news this month:

Children's Protective Ser-



Ruby Reed and Harrison Davis at 2013 Honor Seniors Day.

vices presented plans to move to a **new CPS building** that will be located by the clinic. CPS has been putting money aside for several years with the goal of developing a new facility. The current building is served by the campus infrastructure, which is old and in need of replacement. And this:

The issue of overpopulation of **unclaimed horses** is complex and contentious. This fact is demonstrated by a recent development within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the tribal re-

sponse to the development. The problem at hand is the prevalence of horses roaming across rangeland, much of which is tribal reservation land.

"Tribes participating in our organization occupy trust lands of nearly 20 million acres," said Jason Smith, President of the National Tribal Horse Coalition. Smith, of the Warm Springs Natural Resources Branch, made the statement in a April letter to Secretary of the Agriculture.

## May

The Senior Program hosted the annual **Honor Seniors Day** in May. This year, Harrison Davis was named

Senior of the Year.

Mr. Davis is a veteran of World War II. He served in Germany during the war. He stayed in the military, and then served in Korea in the 1950s. Mr. Davis now lives with his friend and care-giver Ruby Reed. Also in May:

The **Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council** met for the first time last week, and made some significant changes in tribal management.

The Council named a new Secretary-Treasurer and a new Chief Operations Officer. The new Council named Councilman Eugene Austin Green Jr. as Chairman. He takes over the chairmanship from Buck Smith, who did not run for Council re-election this year.

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