

Child welfare among topics at Justice conference

Leona Ike, director of Warm Springs Parole and Probation, spoke on behalf of the Confederated Tribes at a recent law conference at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland.

Jocelyn Samuels, Senior Counselor on Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, was in attendance, with Indian Child Welfare Association staff.

"I shared the history of the Columbia River peoples, historical trauma documents, spiritual history documents and our Tribal Constitution and By-laws," Leona said.

Topics she spoke to included:

How negative politics in Washington D.C. is affecting funding to tribes and impacting our tribal people.

Tribes vs. tribes politics. "I gave the example of the Grand Ronde Tribes, who would have never regained their federal recognition without the assistance of other Oregon tribes, particularly the Warm Springs tribes," Ike said.



Courtesy of the Indian Child Welfare Association.

At the conference were Parole and Probation director Leona Ike (fifth from right) and U.S. Department of Justice Senior Counselor on Civil Rights Jocelyn Samuels (third from right).

"Now the Grand Ronde Tribe utilizes their monetary resources to create political barriers to inhibit our financial growth. This type of shameful infringement is a violation of civil rights of Indian Tribes to grow and provide for their peoples.

"This behavior is not a tribal practice, and goes against our tribal practice to positively engage and enhance tribal communities."

Tribal courts

Tribes have inadequate legal representation for defendants and community members in all legal areas, jeopardizing the civil rights of tribal people, Ike said.

She shared that Indian tribes are grateful for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Womens Act.

The Attorney General's Office is prosecuting habitual domestic violence

offenders. However, she said, there is a concern that issues impacting generations of sons and daughters are not being addressed and resolved.

"We need stronger prevention and education, and requirements tied into grants received by tribes, so both sided of domestic violence are addressed," Ike said.

"Until that happens, we will continue to deal with violence within our tribal communities. This type of violence is

related to the historical trauma of our Indian peoples.

"In our tribal history, men and women were spiritually strong and honored each other in accordance to our Unwritten Laws."

ICWA

Representatives of the Indian Child Welfare Association were present at the conference.

"I shared a concern from a tribal perspective surround the Baby Veronica case that eroded the ICWA for all Indian tribes," Leona says.

Young people should understand that their personal choices can affect tribal sovereignty for all Indian

tribes, she said.

She emphasized the importance of Indian tribes educating and teaching their history to the younger generations.

"A separate case revealed that a young Indian mother accepted \$40,000 for her fetus for adoption. I shared to put money value over the value of human life is a direct violation of tribal and cultural history of all Indian people and their covenant (eternal spiritual promise) to the Creator in accordance to His unwritten laws.

"I wanted the Attorney General to absorb these types of cases from a tribal standpoint," Ike said.

Energy assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income households with home energy bills.

For more information about assistance in Warm Springs, contact Cheryl Tom at the Social Services/Voc Rehab office in the Industrial Park.

Her phone number is 541-553-4952.



Honoring Traditions of Health

Culture & Heritage offers youth education programs

Does your child need help with math? Math is made fun and easy at the Education building.

Ittitamasha (counting) is from 4-5 on Monday and Tuesdays, and Thursdays and Fridays. The program is brought to you by the Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Department.

There will be Native American games and projects, and tutoring lead by certified teacher Esther Kalama, assisted by James Sam. Ittitamasha features beading, weaving, artistry, and assistance with school work. For information call 541-553-3290.

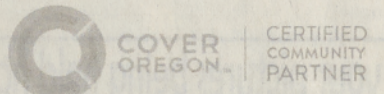
Kiksht

There are Kiksht language classes at the Education building Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30, lead by Pam Cardenas, assisted by Valerie Switzler.

Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation has orientations every Monday at 3 p.m. at their office in the industrial park. Orientations are also held on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the Community Counseling Center.



Cover Oregon is a marketplace for Tribal communities to find health insurance and financial help to pay for it.



Call 541 553 1196

Or Visit the Warm Springs Clinic, or the Warm Springs Health Resource Center & Library.