

# Tax team program helpful to many

The Warm Springs Community Action Team helped hundreds of local residents complete their 2013 tax returns.

This volunteer effort helped the residents collect a total of hundreds of thousands of dollars in refunds.

The refund total was at \$260,000 at the end of March. The final refund figure, and the total number of returns filed through the Community Action Team program, will be available soon.

Lonny James, team director, said the program this year relied on just one volunteer, Clint Jacks. Last year there were four volunteers, so Clint and Lonny stayed very busy this tax season.

The American Association of Retired Persons helped with expenses, and the Community Action Team provided



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Leah Villa, who is a student, visited the Community Action Team tax preparation service last week. This year Clint Jacks and Lonny James were providing their expertise in helping prepare returns for hundreds of Warm Springs residents.

the space for the service.

The community service that Lonny James provides

will be greatly missed, as he is leaving for a job with the Nez Perce tribe in Idaho. His

last day on the job at the Warm Springs CAT will be this Friday, April 18.

# U of O president talks higher ed with tribes

The president of the University of Oregon visited Warm Springs last month, briefing Tribal Council on a major change happening in the state university system.

The relationship of the state to some of the universities is changing dramatically, said Michael Gottfredson, president of the university since mid 2012.

Last year the Oregon Legislature passed a law providing the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University with authority to establish their own governing boards.

In the past these universities, and the four other public universities in the state, have been governed by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. The single governing board model had been in existence since 1929.

Over time, the state has reduced the amount of funding it provides to the universities, Gottfredson said. Twenty-five years ago, the state provided 40 percent of funding for the public universities. The percentage now is at around 5 percent.

Even just seven years ago, he said, the state provided \$30 million more per year than in the current year.

With the loss of state funding, the universities rely more on student fees, and some federal programs. The federal support, Gottfredson said, is now much larger than that of the state.

This radical shift in funding warranted a change in the governing structure, he said. The solution is a board of trustees for just the University of Oregon, one for Oregon State, and one for Portland State.

These governing boards come in to authority on July 1 of this year. The governing boards are not state agencies, but instead are independent. They will have power to borrow money through bonds, and purchase land, for instance.

The goals of the university—the broadest possible access to the best possible

quality education— remain the same, and can be better met through the new board system, Gottfredson said.

The loss of state funding has put more of a burden on the students. Which raises the question of just how public are public universities? he said.

Tribal Council members asked about the recruiting and retention programs for Native American students at the university.

This has been a strong point and a priority at the university, Gottfredson said.

Frank Brunoe, Central Oregon Community College student, said he would like to see a stronger University of Oregon presence in the region. Councilman Kahseuss Jackson said that Oregon State has a fairly strong presence in Central Oregon in comparison.

Jackson said the tribes and the University of Oregon have a long history of working together, and hopes this continues as the reservation economy is in transition. He mentioned his grandfather Vernon Jackson was the first tribal member to graduate college, and he went to the

University of Oregon.

Wasco Chief JR Smith congratulated the university representatives on recent U of O track and field victo-

ries: In March both the men and women's teams were crowned NCAA indoor champions, a rare and historic accomplishment.

## Winning Spirits opening this month at the museum

The Museum at Warm Springs later this month will open *Winning Spirits: Native American Youth and Athletics*.

This exhibit will highlight the challenges and accomplishments of Native American athletes. Some of these include

Jacoby Ellsbury, Shoni and Jude Schimmel, Billy Mills, among others.

The Winning Spirits exhibit will also feature items from community members including historic old tournament pictures, jerseys, shoes, balls and similar sports items.

## Honor Seniors Day on May 9

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day is coming up in May.

Honor Seniors Day this year will be on Friday, May 9

at the Agency Longhouse.

For details please contact the Warm Springs Senior Program at 541-553-3313. Donations are needed along with volunteers.

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The next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, April 25. Thank you!

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