

HHS welcomes new branch manager

Tracy Bray comes to Warm Springs from the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation in Washington.

She is the new general manager of the Warm Springs Health and Human Services Branch. Tracy has one overall goal for the branch: "To make sure the children and families of this community have access to amazing services."

This requires all of the departments of Health and Human Services—and there are several—working together. Tracy started in her new job just last week. She's been meeting with the department heads, learning about everyone's goals, and how to coordinate the various services.

In time, she was saying recently, the goal will be to work more closely with the other tribal branches, such as Public Safety. But the focus for now is on the Health and Human Services Branch, which overall has about 200 employees.

Community Counseling, Community Health, Children's Protective Services, Community Wellness, the Early Childhood Education Center, Family Preservation, Culture and Heritage and Voc Rehab are among the departments in the Health and Human Services Branch.

For the Chehalis Tribes, Tracy worked as director of Children and Family Services, and then as Director of Education. She explains that some years ago at Chehalis all of these services were under one department.

The tribe decided to separate the services, creating Children and Family Services



Health and Human Services General Manager Tracy Bray has her office at the Family Resource Center.

and Education, and Tracy became the Education director.

She moved to Chehalis about 17 years ago, when she married her husband Kevin, who is a tribal member. The Chehalis have about 840 members.

The health and human service programs, and funding sources that Warm Springs uses are very similar to the ones she worked with at Chehalis. "That was an exciting part for me," she said, "seeing the many similarities." The Warm Springs IHS program is the one big difference, she said.

The states of Oregon and

Washington also seem to have different attitudes toward the tribes. For instance in Washington, which has 29 federally recognized, the state government departments all have tribal liaisons.

The Chehalis and Warm Springs communities face similar challenges: "It can be difficult to access services, and to secure employment," Tracy was saying. "That can be true for many rural communities, not just tribes."

Warm Springs is bigger than Chehalis in population and geography. "I feel like I'm in the big city here," she says. Her parents live in central Washington and her

brother lives in Nevada, so being in Central Oregon will be a central location.

Her education background has a focus on Native American studies. She first received a two-year degree from Bellevue College, then a four-year Bachelors Degree from Evergreen State. This degree was in the Reservation Based Community Determined program, focusing on issues of tribal sovereignty, Native culture and other aspects of reservation life. She then earned a Master Degree in Public Administration.

Tracy and her husband have six kids, ranging in age from 14 to 20. They are Kaleb, 20, Jordan, 19, Kaileen, 18, Jordan, 17, Jacquelyn, 16 and Kelsey 14. (The parents each had a child Jordan when they married.)

Tracy also has a background in basketball. She played in high school, and one year at college. Her high school team was very good, going to state all of her years there.

She later coached the high school girls at Oakville, headquarters of the Chehalis Tribes. It's a very small school. Her focus at Oakville, she said, was not really on winning games, but on helping the girls make good decisions, like staying in school.

"We might not have been a winning team in the traditional sense," she says. "But the girls graduated on time." During her last year of coaching at Oakville, the three seniors on the team all graduated and went on to college.

— Dave McMechan

Breakfast for Seniors trip

There will be fundraiser breakfast on Pi-Ume-Sha Saturday morning, June 28, for the Senior Wellness

trip to Washington, D.C. The breakfast will be in the Social Hall at the Community Center, starting at 7.

Tuesday youth culture classes

Summer Recreation includes Soaring Butterfly and Warrior Spirit at the Community Center on Tuesdays. The classes will include culturally based teachings, crafts and learning activities. "Our goal is to share our unique culture as a form of prevention," said Sarah

Wolfe, program coordinator.

The classes are fun and culturally educational. "Culture is prevention," Sarah says. The classes run through August 12, from 9-11 a.m. For more information call Carol at 541-553-3243; Deanie at 541-553-3442; or Sarah at 541-553-3205.

Prevention Power at Center

Summer Recreation is hosting Prevention Power on Fridays this summer at the Community Center. All ages are welcome. Prevention Power sessions, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., will run through

August 8. Topics: Culture is Prevention, alcohol and drug prevention, leadership, self-care, random acts of kindness, dangerous decibels, tobacco, bullying and diabetes prevention.

Camp Naimuma in July

The Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Department will host Camp Naimuma from July 13-17 (boys) and July 20-

24 (girls). The camp is for youth ages 8-15. For information call Greg Arquette at 541-553-2390.

The Warm Springs IHS Clinic has suspended their Thursday late clinic through August 28. This is due to short staffing.

Referendum: motorsports questions and answers

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We do not need to take land into trust, such as the case at Cascade Locks. We don't need approval from the federal or state governments. We have a development partner to fund the pre-operational start up cash required to get to financing.

Myth: We'll lose our sovereignty over the land.

Fact: The land is not being contributed into the joint venture. The value of a long term lease (25 to 99 years depending on the negotiations) is being contributed into the joint venture.

Myth: This project will adversely affect our natural resources.

Fact: The project will have to clear Integrated Resource Management Plan before it is allowed to move forward. This project would take pressure off of our existing natural resources—timber and water—to generate revenue.

Myth: This project will put per capita and the senior pension at risk.

Reality: Per capita and senior pension are already at risk, and are funded through restricted funds not available for economic development. Based on preliminary projections, the motorsports proposal is probably the only option available to save per capita and the senior pension.

Myth: If this business fails, then we'll lose the land.

Fact: The land is not collateral for the loan, and therefore cannot be foreclosed on.

The right to use the land will be collateral, though and the tribes would have a say on the ultimate use of that land until the debt is satisfied.

Myth: A yes vote on the referendum means that we are committed to the project, even though we don't have all the information and answers.

Fact: The referendum is only looking for tribal member support to see if the project is viable. There are many hurdles—the IRMP

process, and mitigation plan, infrastructure, for instance—that could prevent this project from happening.

The negotiation with the potential partner, and a full feasibility study are other potential obstacles.


Myth: All we would be doing is creating jobs for non tribal member.

Reality: This could happen, but not because the opportunity is flawed but because we let it happen. The Tribal Employment Rights

Office (TERO) is but one tool to ensure that jobs are created for tribal members throughout the project

Myth: The motorsports project is only for race cars.

Fact: The motorsports park is a way to bring much needed infrastructure to the highway. This infrastructure can then be used to support other tribal business opportunities: Casino, water park, amphitheater, rodeo and pow-wow grounds, sports complex.



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