

The summer exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs is *Celebrating Native American Youth: Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders*. The museum is open 9-5 p.m. daily.



Births

Keo Kim Wahnetah
 Clarence Chad McKinley and Kari Marie Wahnetah of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Keo Kim Wahnetah, born on July 16, 2014.

Grandparents on the father's side are Martha and Solo Jr. Stewart of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Chico Holliday and Monica Wahnetah, of Warm Springs.

Jessamyn Jean Sampson
 Gary Sampson Jr. and

Angela Sanders are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Jessamyn Jean Sampson, born on June 29, 2014 in Bend.

Jessamyn joins her two brothers, Gary Sampson III and Tyler Anderson, as well as sister Arrita Sampson.

Grandparents on the father's side are Gary Sampson Sr. of Pendleton, and Valerie Squiemphen of Warm Springs; and Jeff and Shirley Sanders of Warm Springs.

Indian Head Casino

Employee of the Month

Jennifer Hintsala

Jennifer Hintsala is the Indian Head Casino Employee of the Month for July.

Jennifer is a Player's Club host, and was nominated because of her dependability, team work, and self-initiative. But more importantly she provides great customer service, and has a carefree attitude that the guests enjoy. Congratulations Jennifer!



Water: project could be grant funded

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This is a problem for various reasons. For instance, capital improvements to the system are hard to accomplish, as most of the budget goes toward operation.

Another issue is one of fairness. Some households use an average amount of water, while others are using much more than average. And the tribal general fund subsidizes the entire operation.

In other words: Some households use the system much more than others, and yet the cost is shared evenly, which is not exactly fair to those who use a reasonable amount of water.

Households that over-use water might not be aware of the situation, as they might

not be aware of leaky pipes. Most of the residential units on the reservation have no water meter, so there is no way to tell how much water is going in to the household. And without a meter, a leaky pipe can go undetected for years.

The solution would be to install water meters for all connections, and then have someone check the meters to see how much water each unit is using. This could be done through a grant from the USDA.

A second step in the process would be to develop a rate system based on the amount of water that each household is using.

This would be a major change, but there are ways to make the change as easy as

possible. For instance, the rate could be zero dollars for households that use an average amount of water.

The cost might be \$1 a month for each thousand gallons a household uses above the average. And there might be exemptions for households that show they cannot afford another monthly bill.

Tribal Council heard this information during a meeting last week with tribal planner Lonny Macy, engineer Travis Wells, water/wastewater engineer Roy Spino, and economic and financial analyst Ray Bartlett.

Bartlett said the USDA would be a great place to look for grant funding to get this project under way.

The benefit in the end would be a much more effi-

cient water system, lessening the burden on the treatment plants. Meanwhile, Bartlett said, with no water meters and no rate system, there is no incentive for anyone to conserve water. The only proven way to encourage conservation, he said, is through a rate system based on usage.

As a side benefit, this program would create some jobs, as people would be needed to install the meters and read them. A person trained in this kind of work can find a job most anywhere, as all communities have water systems.

The billing and collection system would also require new employees. Tribal Council will meet again on this matter on August 19.

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