

Life Skills Graduates

The participants in the winter Warm Springs Employment Life Skills Academy held their graduation ceremony last week.

The Life Skills Academy is hosted by local employment partners that include Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation, Human Resources/ Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Community Action Team.

Life Skills this year welcomes a new training partner, the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, said Jolene Estimo Pitt, director of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The first graduates of 2016 are Marva Lawrence,



Life Skills Academy participants at last week's graduation ceremony.

Anthony Boise, Dinah Belgard, Shirley Hoptowit, Willard Poitra, Perthina Espinoza, Jarren Davis, David Lucei, Essie Lawson,

Manuel Teeman, Shari Miller, Tina Spino, Andrew Wahchumwah, Evelyn Wahchumwah, Marissa Wolfe, and Gilbert Allen.

The Life Skills Academy is an intensive course where participants meet career and employment goals and benchmarks.

Madras COCC to show Native American film

The Madras campus of the Central Oregon Community College will show the film *The Cherokee Word for Water* on Monday, February 22, from 3-5 p.m.

This is a feature length

motion picture that tells the story of the work that led Wilma Mankiller to become the first modern female Chief of the Cherokee Nation. This is a free event, and all are welcome. Snacks will be

served.

The Cherokee Word For Water is inspired by the true story of the struggle for, opposition to, and ultimate success of a rural Cherokee community to

bring running water to their families by using the traditional concept of 'gadugi'—working together to solve a problem. For more information, please contact Gina Ricketts, 541-318-3782.

Focus areas: W.S. UAS working with team of partners

(Continued from page 1)

Developing this potential will involve partnerships with Warm Springs Fire Management, BPA and PGE, the Natural Resources Branch, federal and state resource agencies, along with the Telecom and Kah-Nee-Ta.

Regarding the wildland fire area: The unmanned systems, or drones, can fly in to smoky areas, day or night, using sensors to locate the hot spots.

During a fire, the information can be processed overnight and presented to the fire fighting agencies in the morning. This would allow for the best and safest approach in dealing with fires, Stwyer says.

A test burn with UAS demonstration is planned for the spring.

"Currently there is no organization that provides a single location for the collection, testing, evaluation and dissemination of policies and procedures regarding the use of UAS in the firefighting arena," according to the Ventures analysis.

The Confederated Tribes Center for Excellence "will provide that needed point of consolidation and coordination between the UAS providers and the various gov-

ernment agencies for the most effective integration of UAS into wildland fire management."

Regarding the utility and transmission line area:

The BPA, as an example, has 15,000 miles of transmission lines in the Western states. The agency has a large budget for monitoring the lines. Using a helicopter for monitoring can cost up to \$1,000 an hour.

Drones could accomplish the work for much less. BPA has a de-energized line on the reservation—running parallel to an active line—that could

be used for testing and training, Stwyer says. The tribes, she adds, already have partnerships in other areas with BPA and PGE.

In the natural resources fields, the unmanned systems could have many applications. They can monitor forest health, and the growth rate and height of tree stands, as examples.

Agencies like the Forest Services, other tribes with forest land, and private timber companies could find the technology especially useful.

Advantages the tribes have over other potential provid-

ers of the service, as summarized by Ventures:

The Confederated Tribes are sovereign, an can offer ease of access to services at the test ranges, without approval from outside agencies.

There is no aviation traffic in comparison to test ranges that are located on military airports. The FAA precludes flying near airports or large populated areas, not a problem in remote areas of the reservation.

The partnership with VDOS Global is another advantage, as will be the training center at Kah-Nee-Ta.

Ventures UAS: spring remodel at KNT

(Continued from page 1)

The Telecom will also be the provider for the test sites around the reservation.

When the fiber is extended to Kah-Nee-Ta for the UAS training center, the entire lodge will then have broadband access. The lodge will also see the benefit from the trainees and instructors who attend UAS sessions at Kah-Nee-Ta center.

To become UAS certified, training sessions can take up to 12 weeks. The current

training centers in the U.S. are located on military bases, or in remote areas, where the living accommodations - military barracks, for instance - may not be ideal for a stay of several weeks.

At Kah-Nee-Ta the trainees will have access to the resort hotel rooms, the golf course, swimming pools, restaurants, etc. They can bring their families with them.

And the test sites are in easy driving distance. One is near Kah-Nee-Ta, visible from the training center; one

is at Mill Creek where the motorsports park was going to be located; and at Sidwalter and Seekseequa.

The sites will be equipped with buildings that include office space with broadband internet access.

Another aspect of the UAS program is the construction of a 60-by-100 foot steel maintenance and storage building at the industrial park. This would be on a lot located near Fire Management, where the fire crews camp during summer wild fires.

Madras DMV going to 3 days a week March 1

Starting on March 1, the Department of Motor Vehicles Madras office will be open three days a week instead of five.

The Madras DMV office will be open Tuesday through Thursday, closed on Mondays and Fridays, starting on March 1.

Business hours Tuesday through Thursday will remain the same: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing from 12:30-1:30 for lunch.

The change will help rebalance staff levels to better match customer volume at DMV's Central Oregon locations, primarily Bend and Redmond.

DMV constantly monitors wait times and customer volumes across its 60 field offices. Based on the results, the department occasionally adjusts hours

and staff assignments.

Several small offices with only one or two staff members are open fewer than five days a week, such as La Pine, which is open on Thursdays only.

Offices also occasionally are closed, or operated on reduced hours due to inclement weather or staff availability.

Anytime you need DMV services, the department suggests that you visit OregonDMV.com before visiting a field office in person to make sure you have everything you need.

You can complete some DMV business online, such as renewing vehicle registration, or finding out how to make your visit as efficient as possible. Or call DMV customer assistance at 541-475-3382.

Functional Fitness foundations

A Functional Fitness foundations course is starting on Monday, February 8, at the Community Center. This is a 12-session course that meets at noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for four weeks in the aerobics room.

It's an introduction to functional fitness. Workouts can be adjusted to all fitness levels. Class size is limited. Contact Edmund Francis or Michael Holyan, or go by the physical therapy room in the Community Center to sign up.

Healthy Heart Walk next Friday

A Healthy Heart Walk is coming up on Friday, Feb. 12, from noon to 1 p.m.

The walk will start at the Diabetes Prevention house

on the campus. A healthy snack will be provided. The theme for the walk is "Take a Step Toward a Healthy Heart."

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