

Washanaksha grant for artisans cooperative

By Leah Guliasi
W.S. Community Action Team

The Warm Springs Community Action Team received \$1,200 Washanaksha grant from the Museum at Warm Springs.

The grant will help the Community Action Team to develop an artisans' cooperative for members of the Warm Springs community.

Each year, the Washanaksha grant gives awards to community members and groups to support arts and culture on the reservation.

The Community Action Team (WSCAT) intends to use this award to develop ways to create a sales base, sell products, and obtain supplies for Warm Springs artists.

The funds will allow the cooperative to write a feasibility study and come up with a business plan moving forward.

'Unity is key'

So, what is a cooperative? A cooperative, or co-op, is a group of people who work

together so that its individual members may increase their ability to sell the products they make.

Being a member of a co-op can increase one's purchasing power, lower the cost of materials and supplies, increase online presence, create opportunities for collaboration, support tribal member businesses, and provide opportunity for local artists.

As one community member said, "Unity is key." And a co-op can provide the unity needed to help make the art community in Warm Springs thrive.

Starting a cooperative in Warm Springs

In December of 2013, WSCAT staff and a five-person steering committee began meeting to discuss the development of an artisans' cooperative.

In early 2014 the steering committee surveyed 49 Warm Springs artists to determine what they knew about cooperatives. The survey assessed their interest in creating a cooperative, and

made an inventory of the products they made.

The artisans were also asked what roles they would be willing to play in managing the cooperative.

More than 77 percent of the respondents expressed interest in joining a cooperative.

These artists produced at least 12 different types of artwork.

Based on the survey results, WSCAT and the steering committee believe that the co-op could bring together 30-60 artists in the community to make and sell their artwork, including traditional beadwork, ceramics, and drawings.

In late 2014 and 2015, work on the cooperative went on hiatus. This was necessary so WSCAT staff could focus on other community priorities, such as strengthening business education in Warm Springs, growing the Warm Springs outdoor market, and getting more community members involved in small business individual development accounts (IDAs).

Earlier this year, interest began to resurface, and a

meeting was held to reinvigorate the cooperative.

There were five community members at that meeting: Pinky Beymer, Anita Jackson, Marge Kalama, Shayleen Macy and Aurolyn Stwyer. On hand were three WSCAT staff members: Gerald Danzuka, Chris Watson and Leah Guliasi. The energy and desire to move forward with the cooperative was very positive.

Joining the cooperative

Any community member is welcome and encouraged to join and participate in this cooperative.

You are invited to attend meetings to help get the co-op running, or to participate as an artist in order to sell your work.

It doesn't matter how busy you are or what type of art you make: The cooperative can work with all artists to increase their sales and lower their costs.

If you are interested in attending the next co-op meeting, please call Leah Guliasi or Gerald Danzuka at 541-553-3148.

Community Action team offering tax help

By Leah Guliasi
Community Action Team

It's tax season, which some people dread because filing your taxes can be difficult or stressful.

There are many reasons why filing taxes is a good idea, beyond just the fact that it is often required.

Here are 10 reasons why you want to file your taxes:

You may be able to receive a refund. Depending on your income, many people actually get money back when they file their taxes.

You may qualify for certain credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), that can give you additional funds back.

Whether or not you receive a refund isn't just about your income. Other factors are homeownership, Social Security, retirement, disability, child care, or if you are in school. These factors may result in you receiving a tax credit or benefit.

If you file your taxes each year, you will probably receive more in social security benefits as an older person. The more years you file taxes, and the more money you earn, the greater your social security benefits will be.

Another good reason to file: You will avoid penalties. If you don't file a return or file late, you may have to pay additional costs.

It is better to pay what you can than not pay at

all. The IRS may be willing to set up an installment plan for you to make payments, as long as they see that you are trying your best.

If you file your taxes, nobody else can file under your name... This will reduce the likelihood of identity theft.

Another good reason to file: It makes you knowledgeable about your finances.

Filing online is actually pretty easy. There are many programs that will walk you through the steps and tell you everything you need. In addition, there are a lot of free services that will help you.

Filing through the AARP Tax Aide program, administered every year by WSCAT, is free.

If you are interested in filing your taxes at the WSCAT office—which has five trained tax preparers—call 541-553-3148 to schedule an appointment.

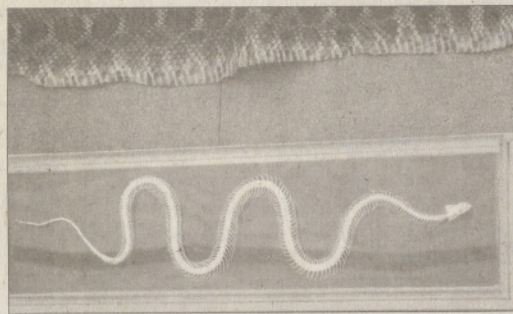
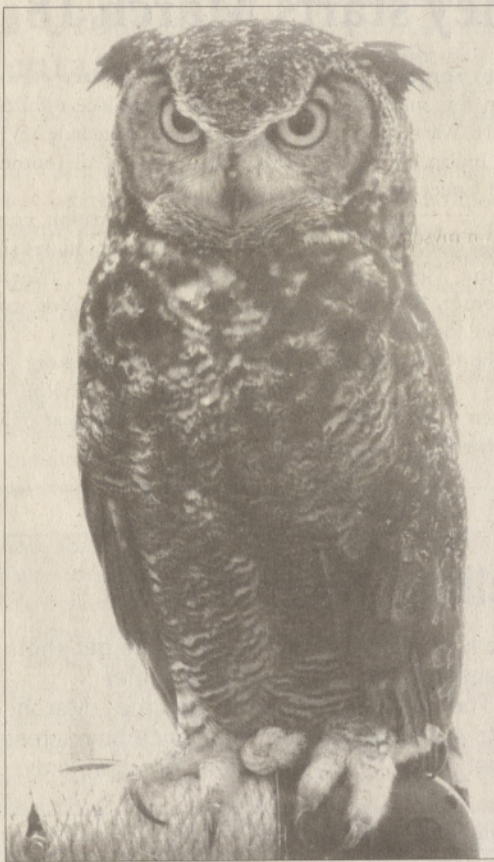
Since 2009, The Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) has helped over 1,000 individuals file their taxes for free.

WSCAT helps up to 300 people per year file their taxes and you could be one of them.

The average refund that people receive through our services is \$1,500.

This year, WSCAT will be providing filling assistance on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Don't wait until the last minute, file today.

A rehabilitated owl was part of Eagle Watch 2016. The bird was injured, and lost its visual depth perception; and now must live in captivity. At right are the Quartz Creek Dancers getting ready for their performance. And below right, a snake skeleton was part of the wildlife education display.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Health and Wellness Center March-April hours

In March and April, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

On Wednesdays the center is open from 1 to 5 p.m.; closed Saturday and Sunday. You can reach the Health and Wellness Center at 541-553-1196.

The Twenty-First Annual Na-ha-shnee Native American Health Science Institute is a 13-day summer program designed to encourage Native students to pursue health science degrees and health-related careers.

It's open to students currently in ninth, tenth and eleventh grades. Applications are available online. Google WSU Native American Health Sciences to find it. Deadline is April 25.

Community Counseling is hosting the **Women's Group** every Wednesday at the Counseling Center. The meetings are from 1-2:30 p.m. Orientation was this week, and the first regular meeting is March 9, and on Wednesdays afterward until May 4. For more information contact Alice or Jean Stark at the Counseling Center, 541-553-3205.

2016 BURN PERMIT

BURN PERMITS ARE NEEDED TO BURN DEBRIS. IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR 2015 PERMIT

COME ON UP TO FIRE MANAGEMENT AND GET A 2016 BURN PERMIT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL 541-553-1146.

Warm Springs Community Counseling Center

VETERANS GROUP

Starting Tuesday, March 8th, 2016

and will continue every Tuesday

From: 1:30 pm—2:30 pm

At the Counseling Center Main Conference Room.

For more information you may contact David Howenstine or Suci Sonnier ☎ (541)553-3205.



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