



Spilyay Tymoo

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Team launches dictionary project

The Culture and Heritage Department last week launched a project to create a new dictionary of the Ichishkeen language of the Confederated Tribes.

The event was the result of four years of planning and funding effort, said Tribal Councilwoman Val Switzler, director of the Culture and Heritage Department.

The grant for the work comes from the National Science Foundation, among the most prestigious of

funding organizations.

Culture and Heritage and the tribes are partnering with the University of Oregon on the project, as this was the course to secure the funding, Councilwoman Switzler said. The staff at Culture and Heritage will have the help of experts who have worked many years with the Confederated Tribes. They include:

Hank Millstein, linguist who worked some years with Culture

and Heritage on an earlier version of an Ichishkeen dictionary; Nariyo Kono, of Portland State University, specialist in endangered and indigenous languages; Joanna Jansen, linguist and co-director of the Northwest Indian Language Institute; and Merle Kirk, language documentation specialist.

They will be working with the Culture and Heritage teachers and tribal elders to document the language. Last week the team re-

viewed some of the best cataloguing and recording practices to preserve the language.

The project is expected to take two and a half years. The National Science Foundation awarded a grant of nearly \$280,000 for the work.

The final work product will include digital and paper versions of the dictionary, grammar, and audio to help with pronunciation.

Plan to improve CPS

The Health and Human Services Branch last week provided Tribal Council with a plan on how to improve Children's Protective Services.

The plan includes both near and long-term changes at CPS. The changes are needed to provide the children, families and community with the best service possible, said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services.

Foster care and the services at CPS itself are included in the improvement plan. Here are some of the goals and recommendations:

Hire a new CPS manager with extensive experience in administration, budgets, and interpreting and administering all regulations. For the past few years, CPS has been operating under interim management.

Within a month after the hire, the new manager will meet individually with current staff and other departments with whom CPS intersects.

Another goal: All staff and foster care providers will be sufficiently trained to enable them to perform their duties. The training aspect of the report was a point of emphasis at Tribal Council. A third task:

See **CPS** on 7

Hatfield Fellow to work with Congressman

Robert Ahern won the 2016-17 Hatfield Fellowship.

He will work for a year on Native American issues in Washington, D.C., with Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Robert is a 2012 graduate of Madras High School, and a 2016 graduate of Pacific University, where he majored in Sociology and made excellent grades.

Robert was an outstanding basketball player at Madras High School, and played all four years at Pacific University. His parents are Fran and Judge Dan Ahern.

Robert has an interest in law and political science, so the Hatfield Fellowship will be a



Robert Ahern

great experience. A career in law or politics is a possibility, he says, and the Hatfield Fellowship should give a good introduction to both fields.

One of the important issues pending before Congress is the tribal housing conditions at the Columbia River. Congressman Blumenauer is among the lawmakers who have taken an interest in resolving the situation.

As the Hatfield Fellow this will likely be one of the issues Ahern will work on in 2016-17. He plans on making monthly report to the tribes once the fellowship begins.

He will be moving to Washington, D.C., in mid October. A month-long orientation begins on November 3. The Spirit Mountain Fund provides the housing and other costs of living.

Robert is the fifth member of the Confederated Tribes to serve as a Hatfield Fellow. Others from

Warm Springs who won the Fellowship are attorney Direlle Calica, tribal chief operations manager Alyssa Macy, BIA Deputy Regional Director Bodie Shaw, and law professor Mary Bodine.

Robert explains how he became interested in the Fellowship program:

"I believe that it is very important to have a tribal voice when addressing issues that impact Native Americans. As a Native American I want to be that voice and want to serve as a role model for tribal youth who often don't see higher level jobs as an attainable goal for themselves."

Health commission report at Council

The Joint Health Commission—the partnership between the Confederated Tribes and the Indian Health Service—began a little more than seven years ago.

The commission is needed because there are two health service providers on the reservation: The tribes and IHS. Both entities need to coordinate, plan and work together in order to meet the goal of providing great health care to the membership.

The tribes and IHS worked together for a few decades before the creation of the commission in 2009. The tribes, for instance, built the clinic in 1993, costing \$5 million at the time.

With the new clinic, IHS was able to add staff—doctors, nurses, dentists and other staff—to better serve the reservation. Annual funding for Warm Springs IHS increased by \$4 million.

In the early and mid 2000s, some disagreements arose between the tribes and IHS. The dispute ended up in court, and was resolved in May of 2009 with the creation of the Joint Health Commission.

A goal was to give the tribes an equal say in health delivery matters on the reservation. The commission includes two tribal repre-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The mobile clinic is a good example of the cooperation between the tribal and IHS health programs.

sentatives, two IHS representatives, and three volunteer health care community representatives.

They meet regularly, at least quarterly, addressing the variety of health issues facing the tribes. And together they produce the annual health report. The commission and the report are both unique to the Warm Springs Reservation.

Jim Sizemore has been involved with Warm Springs health service for many years. He gave a report recently to Tribal Council, the point being to review the tribal-IHS relationship with the new Council

members.

On hand were Caroline Cruz, tribal Health and Human Services general manager, Carol Prevost, director of the IHS at the Warm Springs Clinic, and the Health and Welfare Committee, among others.

"The commission was created because of the two health systems—federal and tribal—serving one community," Mr. Sizemore said. "And the two need to coordinate and respond to the needs of the community."

There has been consistent

progress in serving the membership since the establishment of the commission, with some items still being addressed, he said.

The mobile clinic is a good example of the kind of service that can result from the partnership, said Caroline Cruz.

The tribal part of the health services on the reservation include the Community Counseling programs, nutrition, public health nursing, among other services.

IHS services include medical outpatient, off-site hospital services, dental, optometry, Pharmacy, among other services.

Contract or compact

A separate but related item came up during the meeting. The item was the difference between contracting and compacting.

The tribes contract with the federal government for the delivery of certain health services. Another option would be through a self-governance compact with IHS.

A difference between the two options is that, through a compact, the tribes have more flexibility in the use of funding.

See **HEALTH** on 8

New service for pet owners

Great news for pet owners: The tribes this month are beginning a partnership with the Bend Spay and Neuter Project. The project will host clinics in Warm Springs once a month, offering free spay and neuter services for dog owners.

This is also a chance for volunteers to learn, hands-on, about the Veterinary profession.

The first clinic will be on Tuesday, September 6, at the Warm Springs Housing Community Building, 2776 Quail Trail, in the new Greeley Heights subdivision.

The Spay and Neuter Project will bring their mobile clinic, like a MASH unit, with a Veterinarian to the Housing community building. On clinic day, people can show up with their pets starting at 7:30 a.m.

The service is on a first-come first-serve basis, with up to 30 appointments available. The owners then pick up the pets at 4 p.m.

The procedure is performed in the sterile environment of the mobile clinic, with the dogs staying in standard pet carrying crates during pre- and post-surgery.

See **PET OWNERS** on 7



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