

W.S. veterans representatives to offer help

“Native American people serve in the U.S. Armed Services at a higher rate than any other group...”

Veterans returning home are entitled to the benefits that the federal government has made available. But as Native veterans return home and seek to access the benefits they are entitled to, veteran services and benefits for them fall short of their needs, and are less adequate than those provided to their non-Native counterparts.”

— Statement from the National Congress of the American Indians.

Tribal Council and veterans representatives are looking to help remedy this inequity among Warm Springs tribal veterans.

Council met last week

with Mitchell Sparks, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Services director. On hand were veterans activists and advocates AJ Atencio, Gerald Danzuka, Susan Guerin and Charles Tailfeathers.

Initial discussion was in regard the difficulty that veterans can experience in applying for and receiving the benefits they have earned.

A simple typographical error on a form can lead to a prolonged and discouraging process for the veteran, said Councilman Jody Calica.

The levels of bureaucracy can be impossible. For example: The Veterans Administration might refer the tribal member veteran to the Indian Health Service, which then refers them back to the VA, etc., said Councilman Raymond Tsumpti.

The recent Veterans Expo

VASH Housing for veterans

The Warm Springs Housing Authority oversees a program providing housing voucher assistance to tribal member veterans.

The program is the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, or VASH.

Warm Springs Hous-

ing is currently helping some through VASH, but has funding for more.

The qualifying veteran can live on or off the reservation.

The voucher payment covers the housing cost.

For information, please contact Housing at 541-553-3250.

in Warm Springs was an example of the outreach that provide some help in navigating the system.

The idea talked about last week at Tribal Council is the designation of local advocates who can assist tribal member veterans. “The representatives should be here—the representative can be the voice of the veteran,” Mr. Sparks said.

This is a long-standing issue on the reservation, and there is an earlier Council resolution and memorandum of understanding regarding a local veterans representative office.

This may need to be updated. Tribal Council requested the group come back with a current draft form for Council consideration.

Students invited to STRIVE this summer at COCC

High school students—from incoming freshman through seniors—can experience college life first-hand this summer.

Dustin Seyler, financial advisor at the Warm Springs Community Action Team, is encouraging students to consider the five-day STRIVE program at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.

“The students will stay in the dorms, go to different classes in different departments—They’ll see the whole campus,” Mr. Seyler said.

The goal is to have 20 Warm Springs students in 2018 STRIVE, though more are welcome.

STRIVE stands for ‘Summer Training to Revive Indigenous Vision and Empowerment.’

This summer the program happens just after Pi-Ume-Sha, and just before the Fourth of July: From Thursday, June 28 to Monday, July 2. So the timing is good for the lo-

cal students, Mr. Seyler added.

The goal of STRIVE is to provide cultural and academic support and give young Native American students leadership skills.

The program encourages and gives skills to youth who have college as a dream.

Students take classes from college professors, and meet with successful Native American college students.

Students who are interested should contact Dustin Seyler at the Warm Springs Community Action Team, 541-553-3148. Email: dustin@wscat.org

Or contact Kelsey Freeman, Native American College Prep coordinator at COCC, 541-330-4369. Her email is: kfreeman@cocc.edu

Another contact is Michelle Cary, COCC Native American Program coordinator, 541-318-3782. Email: mcary@cocc.edu

Summer Slam Powwow



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Drummers perform at the Warm Springs Academy Summer Slam Powwow.

Summer construction camp

Warm Springs youth ages 16-19 are offered a pre-apprenticeship construction camp opportunity.

The camp is for five weeks, from July 9 through August 10.

Youth will learn about several crafts in the construction industry, green jobs that meet environmental protection, carpentry, masonry, welding, sheet metal, waste management, environmental restoration and woodshop.

No high school diploma or GED is required. The participant must attend the Summer Construction Camp information session on June

27. Warm Springs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will provide transportation.

Those in attendance must pass a drug screening. Youth under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian present during drug screening.

To any youth who is interested, it is important that you make contact with WIOA program at 541-553-3324 or 541-553-3328.

Or visit the office, located in the Education building on campus, 1110 Wasco Street, office no. 307.

Suicide prevention conference

How can you help? How do I ask? Let's raise awareness—and get the facts.

Warm Springs Prevention and Health and Human Services will host the Suicide Prevention conference on Thursday, June 7 at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The all-day conference begins at 8, with opening prayer and introductions

at 8:30. Some of the agenda items include Best Care, veterans suicide prevention, small and big work groups and discussion.

For more information contact Rosanna Jackson, Michael Martinez or Leighton Pennington at 541-615-0036. Or stop by the Behavioral Health Center.

Tribal prevention summit in June at Kah-Nee-Ta

Tribal communities face unique challenges in meeting the challenge of drug abuse and addiction.

The nine Oregon tribes will meet in June at Kah-Nee-Ta to discuss the problem, and strategies to battle epidemic.

The Confederated Tribes and Health and Human Services will host the Oregon Tribal Summit on Opioids and Other Drugs, June 5-6.

The nine tribes will be

there, with the Native American Youth Association (NAYA), law enforcement, social services, medical providers, spiritual and cultural leaders, courts, prosecution, youth services, and others.

Some highlights: Discussion of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas with program director Chris Gibson; and the Oregon Recovers director Eric Martin.

On the medical panel will

Historical and intergenerational trauma—associated with increased rates of depression, drug use and addiction—are additional issues facing Native American communities in dealing with the drug epidemic.

be Dr. Locker, Indian Health Service physician from the Warm Springs

Clinic.

Caroline Cruz, general manager of Warm Springs Health and Human Services will lead a discussion of an inter-tribal memorandum of understanding proposal.

On a lighter note will be Native American comedy during the lunch hour.

For more information please contact Asa Wright, Lines for Life Prevention programs coordinator, at: asaw@linesforlife.org Or call 971-247-9072.

Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon
“Empowering People of Diverse Abilities”.

Possibilities Thrift Stores

* Redmond * Bend * Madras

541-475-6961—Madras

Mon.—Sat. 9:30 AM—5:30 PM

MONDAY: 25% off Books

TUESDAY: Veterans & Seniors 55+ Day
50% off items under \$20 and 25% off items \$20 and over for all Seniors and Veterans

FRIDAY: 50% off Clothing

SATURDAY: 25% off Storewide

* \$4 Bag Sale 1st & 3rd Monday for Paperback Books

* \$8 Bag Sale Last Monday of the Month for All Clothing Under \$10

* All Sales are Final. * No Refunds. * No Exchanges.
No Additional Discounts on Clearance Items.

Thank you for supporting possibilities and NOT disabilities. Our Clients help run our stores, so please be patient with them!
Thank You!

Tip Line

The Warm Springs Police Department has an anonymous tip line to help gather information from individuals who want to remain anonymous but assist in providing information regarding any criminal activity.

The Tip Line has no caller identification program attached. The caller can leave a message after the recorded message, and it is checked daily by a staff member.

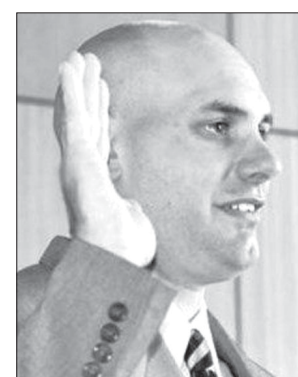
If anyone has any information about any criminal activity, please call the anonymous tip Line: 541-553-2202.

Former officer charged with abuse

A former Madras police officer is facing federal child sex abuse charges alleging inappropriate touching of a girl living on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

Before working for the Madras Police Department, John Joseph ‘JJ’ Wallace Jr. worked for the Warm Springs Police Department.

Wallace Jr. was indicted in February, accused of abusing a girl aged 12 to 15 who is a Warm Springs tribal member known to Wallace, according to the court records.



Courtesy Madras Pioneer

Wallace at 2015 swearing-in at Madras.

The charges include three counts of abusive sexual contact with a child and one count of attempted sexual abuse of a minor.

The indictment accuses Wallace of inappropriately

touching the girl or attempting to do so in incidents between June 1, 2016 and Jan. 1, 2018 and on or about Jan. 26 of this year.

Wallace pleaded not guilty at a March arraignment. He was released on conditions including GPS monitoring, no contact with the victim or her family and removal of a firearm.

Wallace became a Madras police officer in 2015. Before that, he worked as a Warm Springs police officer for six years. His trial is currently scheduled for August.