

Council establishes Veterans program

Tribal Council this week approved an agreement with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs that provides Warm Springs with tribal veteran service officers.

The Warm Springs service operators will be available to help the veterans of the community with efforts such as acquiring veterans benefits.

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs is required to file an application for accreditation with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs for each person the department desires to be certified as a representative of the organization.

In order to acquire the necessary certification for the Warm Springs veteran service officers, the Council and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs entered into a memorandum of understanding, signed by Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. on Monday of this week.



Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. signs the memorandum of understanding with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, represented by Mitch Sparks.

standing, signed by Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. on Monday of this week.

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs,

acting department director Mitch Sparks also signed the agreement.

On hand for the Council action were local veterans

advocates Susan Guerin, AJ Atencio and Charles Tailfeathers. For more information Susan at: susan@wsala48.org

BIA to inspect W.S. Jail conditions

Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement from Portland plans to visit Warm Springs to tour the jail. The Warm Springs Jail and dispatch building is BIA property, operated by the tribes through the Public Safety Branch.

BIA law enforcement plans to inspect the facility in mid September, said Agency Superintendent Lori Anderson, meeting last week with Tribal Council.

Condition of the Warm Springs Jail has been an issue with the tribes for years.

The facility was built in

1985 with a projected useful life of 25 years.

A new or wholly renovated facility is needed to address the basic infrastructure problems.

The U.S. Department of Justice, through the BIA Office of Justice Services, has been identified as a possible source of funding.

Nevertheless, regarding the upcoming visit from BIA law enforcement visit, "We've had these reviews and reports for years, and so far nothing has been done about it," said Tribal Councilman Jody Calica.

State closes Columbia fishery

Optimism earlier this year about the Columbia River summer steelhead runs proved to be premature, and the states of Oregon and Washington took unprecedented actions in August to protect diminished returns of wild steelhead.

Oregon shut down the Columbia River to all fish-

ing at the mouth of the Deschutes River.

The numbers of returning summer steelhead have been low enough that fisheries managers do not believe the run will come in as strong as expected. The 190,000 projected 2018 return may actually come in closer to 110,000.

Welcome cooling eases fire, smoke

The reservation experienced a hot and smoky month of August. Recent cooling has given a welcome break from the conditions.

The Tenino fire burned in August, scorching about 9,500 acres.

This fire contributed to the smoke, but most was coming from fires in Washington and British Columbia.

The air quality was recorded as moderate on most days, though twice the reading was 'unhealthy,' meaning people with certain conditions were encouraged to stay inside.

While Warm Springs was smoky in August, the situation was worse in the Madras area. This is because the agriculture field burning



Edison Yazzie photos

Aircraft deployed at the Tenino fire; while a Fire Management crew replenishes its water supply.

added to the wildfire smoke. Through an agreement, the Jefferson County smoke program does not allow field burning when the wind is blowing toward Warm Springs.



Tribes engaged in bridge project

The Port of Hood River made efforts in August to include the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and representatives from the Washington side of the river in the bridge replacement process.

The most significant step was a \$25,000 contract, approved by the port commission.

The calls for working with Akana Engineering to help coordinate with CRITFC and the four member tribes: Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla nad Nez Perce.

Under this contract, Akana, a Native American-owned professional services firm, will advise on tribal outreach and facilitate contact with key tribal representatives.

The company has 10 offices nationwide, with its headquarters in Portland.

"Akana is a unique



Name: Relda Jack-Melvin Age: 15 years old Summer youth worker for WIOA-Aspirations: Early Childhood Education teacher aide

This year Relda really likes working for the ECE, she is picking up some new tools such as learning sign language, and "patience." In high-school she acted the class secretary. After high-school she plans on attending college, "two free years that Oregon has to offer." And, after attend a university to become a veterinarian. Her favorite hobby is to draw, particularly "anime."



Name: Thomas Walker Age: 14 years old Summer Youth Worker for: Warm Springs Preventions

Thomas likes working with his crew, "me and my crew that I work with, talk with the community and help people, to stay of drugs and alcohol to make their lives better again." Thomas is going to be a freshman this coming year, and this is his first year working with Native Aspirations. In high-school he is going to try out for football, and wrestling. After high-school he plans on attending the University of Oregon.

by Gerald Tufti

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