

## Tribes demonstrate support for veterans

Native Americans serve in the country's armed forces in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group. And many tribes make a priority of providing services to members veterans.

Last year, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, for instance, entered a first-ever agreement with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The agreement has enabled the tribes to establish the state's first-ever tribal veterans service office.

The office is authorized to operate in a way similar to a county veteran service office, providing direct services to tribal veterans under Veterans Affairs power of attorney.

The tribal office allows the advocates to address veterans needs in ways unique to the reservation. Having a local representative is another benefit of having a tribal veterans service office.

In another development in veterans affairs in Indian

Country: Leaders of the Umatilla tribe last week also signed a new agreement with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

The agreement allows the Umatilla to create a service office that will operate in the same way as a county service office.

As with Warm Springs, this will provide direct services to tribal veterans, such as pursuing disability claim, and allowing more tribal veterans to receive physical and mental health services.

## Community notes...

A Jefferson County victims assistance advocate comes to Warm Springs on the third Wednesday of every month at the Victims of Crime Services office, at 1108 Wasco Street.

Folks can get help with things like case assistance, paperwork, and other resources.

Appointments can also be made for other times. For information call Ken Clark 541-475-4452 or VOCS 553-2293.

The Warm Springs Community Action Team's AARP Tax Aide is taking appointments for free tax preparation and filing. Appointments will be for Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 5 through April 12. Call 541-553-3148 to reserve a time.



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