

# Year in Review ~ 2019 ~ Continued

## April

At the Agency Longhouse this month Charisse Heath gave a demonstration of skills—one of them rare and potentially life-saving, the other lighter and more familiar—at recent **Miss Warm Springs 2019 Pageant**.

She first demonstrated her skill in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, a life-saving technique she learned at school. She followed this with the more familiar Native youth skill of basketball, at which Charisse excelled in high school.

At the Pageant she also gave a talk on traditional foods, and food preservation techniques. Charisse is the 2019 Miss Warm Springs. A graduate of Yakama Nation Tribal School in Toppenish, she attends Yakima Valley Community College.

She first became interested in being Miss Warm Springs some years ago. “When I was younger we would go to the powwows, like Lincoln’s Powwow,” Charisse says. “And I always looked up to the powwow royalty.”

Her friend Thyreicia Simtustus, 2018 Miss Warm Springs, suggested Charisse give this year’s Pageant a try. And the judges agreed that she would make a great 2019 Miss Warm Springs. Elsewhere:

A new book published in April—*Power in the Telling* by Brook Colley—examines a story of the Warm



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Miss Warm Springs 2019 Charisse Heath with aunt Colleen and uncle Roosevelt Johnson.

Springs Tribes, inter-tribal relations, and the effort to build a casino on Ceded Land at Cascade Locks.

The author is now the assistant professor of Native American studies at Southern Oregon University. Brook spent several years researching and writing *Power in the Telling*.

Council chose Raymond Tsumpti, longest-serving member, as chairman; and Lola Sohappay, former tribal judge, as vice-chair.

There are many worthwhile project ideas on the reservation—from economic development, housing, a new community cen-

ter, a traditional foods processing plant, to name just a few. There are grant and other funding sources available to tribes, yet a potentially greater source of revenue also exists.

These sources are the tens of thousands of charitable trusts and foundations—1,600 in the Pacific Northwest alone, and more than 110,000 nationwide. These sources become available when an entity has 501(c)(3) non-profit recognition.

The tribes received great news in May, as the federal government awarded 501(c)(3) non-profit status for the Warm Springs Community Development Organization. Tribal executive management, the community development director, Tribal Council and legal counsel initiated the application process two and a half years ago.

Elsewhere in May of this year:

## May

The first week of May the 11 members of the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes took office.

After the swearing-in ceremony the Council met for preliminary businesses—electing the chair and vice-chair, and reviewing the tribal major documents: the Treaty, Constitution and By-Laws and others.



The 2018 Tribal Member Art Show concluded in January of this year. Entries included this M&M painting by Travis Bobb.

The Confederated Tribes Community Health Nurse team works with the nursing and medical teams of Warm Springs IHS in assuring that children and adolescents receive their scheduled vaccinations.

This health partnership has been a success: The rate of immunization of young

people for meningitis and human papillomavirus on the reservation greatly exceeds the overall standard.

And for this cooperative effort, the clinic team has received national recognition, earning the 2019 IHS Area Director’s Award—Fostering Relationships.

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