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Unique census honor for the tribes

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have been chosen to host and conduct the first 2020 census count for the entire state of Oregon.

As with other rural areas, and reservations in particular, Warm Springs contends with being under-represented during census counts.

To help address this problem, the U.S. Census Bureau for the Western region contacted the tribes earlier this month. Julie Lam, census regional director, based in Los Angeles, wrote to the tribes: "We value our partnership with the tribe, and are committed to a complete and accurate count of our nation's first peoples," Ms. Lam said in a letter to Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti.

The tribes and regional Census Center are now planning an event for Thursday, March 12. This will involve the submission, by a Con-

federated Tribes of Warm Springs member, of the first 2020 census count for the state of Oregon.

The tribes will choose the person to submit the first census count for the state, said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services, and chair of the tribes' Census Complete Count Committee. Ms. Cruz last week updated Tribal Council on the project, reviewing a proposed agenda for the March 12 event.

This would begin with a welcome address by a tribal leader, followed by remarks by the 2020 census regional director or deputy director. The Complete Count Committee chair is then invited to speak, followed by a showcase demonstration of tribal culture and tradition.

The conclusion will be the first 2020 Oregon census filing—called the census enumeration operation



activity—with a local enumerator. The actual census information of the person chosen to submit the first enumeration would of course be confidential, unavailable to media or the public.

In her letter to Chairman Tsumpti, Ms. Lam summarizes the importance of a complete count of the reservation households and population:

"Census data not only has a role in the representation for Congress; it also directly impacts how

the federal government allocates more than \$675 billion every year for programs and services vital for tribal communities, like Medicaid, social services, housing, public safety, veterans services, emergency preparedness, education, school lunches and more."

Shana Radford, from the Umatilla tribes, is the Census Tribal Partnership Specialist for Oregon and Idaho, a division of the Regional U.S. Census Center based in Los Angeles.

Ms. Radford thanked Cheryl Tom, director of tribal Human Resources and Complete Count Committee vice chair; Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona; and Caroline Cruz for their help in preparing for the 2020 census count of the reservation households.

— Dave McMechan

Adding staff at Academy

New funding will become available for the 2020-21 school year at the Warm Springs Academy.

The funding, available after July 1, will create new staff and teacher positions, helping continue student improvement, said Ken Parshall, school district superintendent.

Student success at the Academy has seen great improvement, especially over the past few years; "and we're planning additional investments at the K through 8," Mr. Parshall said.

An aspect of the new programs will be addressing gaps that a student may have in math or literacy from a previous grade. A program to fill in these gaps—math and literacy intervention—is something many districts don't have access to, due to funding.

Funding to the Academy is through the program Student Investment Account, part of the Oregon Student Success Act. The purpose of the funding is, in part, to increase academic achievements and reduce academic disparities for students of color, and other "student groups who have historically experienced academic disparities."

This law when fully implemented in Oregon will bring an additional \$1 billion investment in schools, according to the State Department of Education.

"It's exciting that we have additional resources coming in," Mr. Parshall said. "We're going to invest in the K through 8 to help the students make the best start possible."

With this new funding coming available, these are some of the positions the school district will be looking to fill for the 2020-21 school year:

School counselor. This is a new position.

Middle school math teacher, also a new position.

Mental health specialist, new.

Intervention specialists, new for the 2020-21 year.

More positions include an instructional coach for math; a sixth-grade teacher; and a third-grade teacher.

Some of these will be new next school year, funded through a federal grant, as they remained vacant this year. In other school Academy and school district news:

8th grade family night

The Madras High School eighth-grade family night is coming up on the Wednesday evening of March 11, from 5:30 to 7. Dinner will be served.

Families will learn everything they need to know about Madras High School, including athletics and activities.

Competition winners at 2020 Lincoln's

Simnasho and the Lincoln's Powwow Committee in February welcomed guests from around the region and beyond to the Forty-Third Annual Lincoln's Powwow. Here are the competition results (in order of finish, first-, second and third-):

Junior Girls Fancy: Vera Johnson, Salem. Jayden Holliday, Wapato. Valerie Scabbyrobe, White Swan.

Junior Girls Jingle: Janessa Abundiz, Wapato. Alimae Jackson, White Swan. Madison Tulee, Warm Springs.

Junior Girls Traditional: Annie Payer, Goldendale. Askewin Tom, Warm Springs. Tiara Price, White Swan.

Junior Boys Fancy & Grass: Elijah Denny, Warm Springs. Tonny Nelson Walsey, Toppenish. Liam Beebe, Wapato.

Junior Boys Traditional:



The Saturday of 2020 Lincoln's.

Elias Nelson Walsey, Toppenish. Kyle Frank III, Warm Springs. Darius Walsey, Wapato.

Teen Girls Fancy: Aurora Whiskeyjack, Pendleton. Gigi Hintsala-David, Warm Springs.

Teen Girls Jingle: Natasha Smith, Lapwai. Clarissa Morninggun, Wapato. Jasmine Baney, Portland.

See LINCOLN'S on 5



Children's Protective Service updates at Council

The Warm Springs Children's Protective Services building may see a new playground, lawn and other improvements. CPS and tribal management are planning to meet this week with representatives of Every Child, a non-profit group supporting vulnerable children and families.

The Central Oregon affiliation of Every Child would like to help Warm Springs children and families, and has met once with Cecelia Collins, director of CPS. Ms. Collins pointed out some of the most pressing needs at CPS, such as the playground and outdoor area,

and some improvements to the building.

Another tour is planned for this week, with tribal management. The hope is that Every Child would weigh the idea, and present the information for their funding. This in time could lead to playground equipment, and possible other needed CPS improvements.

Ms. Collins updated Tribal Council last week on the matter, as part of the presentation of the Health and Human Services Branch. She also reviewed challenges facing CPS in response to the Family First Act. This 2016

federal act includes provisions that have serious consequences for the tribal group home.

A central issue is a provision requiring the child's temporary shelter provider, such as the CPS home, to locate the child to a private home, such as with a parent or foster home, within two weeks. Stays at the group home beyond that time would no longer qualify for federal reimbursement. This would eliminate a large percentage of the CPS budget.

This provision of the federal law was done with the idea of family preservation, a worthy goal,

obviously; yet the tribal circumstance is unique, and tribes were not brought into the planning process.

An example of the potential problem: Qualifying a household to serve as a foster home can take six to eight weeks, in order to conduct the proper background check. This process in itself would be well beyond the two-week provision.

The state of Oregon has worked with the tribes in achieving a temporary waiver, though this is currently set to expire in October of this year.



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