



Spilyay Tymoo

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\$6.9 million for fiber optics

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Company is receiving a \$6.9 million grant to greatly improve the fiber optic infrastructure serving the reservation. The award is from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The grant allows the Warm Springs Telecom to begin work immediately on designing and constructing a new system, including fiber to homes. The funding is through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce.

"This NTIA funding opportunity will greatly assist us in bringing a services to our community that is essential to living in today's world," said Tribal Council Jonathan Smith.

"This will allow our youth and community members to connect with educational services, and have access to additional services that would otherwise not be available."



Travis Bobb

Gift giveaway, & Car Lights

The Jolly Jamboree Santa's Toy Giveaway for youth ages 0 to 18 is this Thursday and Friday, December 15 and 16 at the gymnasium of the former elementary school. The event is hosted by the Health and Human Services Branch.

Parents and guardians can pick up gifts for their child or children only. A gift-wrapping room will be available for parents and guardians to wrap gifts. Supplies will be provided.

Car Lights Parade

Recreation presents the always colorful Car Lights Parade this **Wednesday evening, December 14**. Parade line-up is at 4 p.m. by the former elementary school building. Judging is at 5 and the parade starts at 6.

There will be prizes for community entries, and tribal organization entries—First-, Second- and Third-Place in both categories. The theme this year is *Santasquatch Is Coming to Town*. For information call 541-553-3243.

Tribal artists at High Desert Museum

The High Desert Museum in Bend will feature six Native American artists, four from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, at an exhibit opening in January. *Creations of Spirit* opens January 28, and will present the Indigenous plateau artistic and worldview. A seventh artist is creating an interactive piece for the center of the gallery.

Creations of Spirit will be a one-of-a-kind experience featuring the stories of these living works of art. Videos, audio and large projections "will immerse visitors in the landscapes and communities in which these objects are used, highlighting the theme of artwork as alive, full of stories and created for specific purposes and people."

The works will be supplemented with pieces on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The artists in *Creations of Spirit* have roots throughout the Plateau region:

Natalie Kirk, of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, is weaving two baskets that will be used to educate youth through schools and community programs.



High Desert Museum

Kelli Palmer with patlapa; and Natalie Kirk with basket.

Natalie is a contemporary weaver who has shown her artwork at the Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland.

H'Klumaiyat Roberta Joy Kirk (Wasco, Warm Springs, Diné), also of the Confederated Tribes, is creating regalia for young women to wear during special ceremonies.

Joy has spent her life sewing and beading since her family lost priceless family heirlooms in a house fire as a young girl. She passes down the intricate art of Plateau beadwork through classes and mentoring. Joy was a recipient of the 2020 Governor's Arts Award.

Jefferson Greene of the Con-



federated Tribes is constructing a tule reed canoe and paddles that will be used by Native youth in continuing important cultural traditions.

Jefferson is an executive at the Columbia River Institute for Indigenous Development Foundation and an Ichishkiin language instruc-

tor. Mr. Greene is also an artist who offers classes to students, kindergarten to professional level in language, arts, sports, health and spiritual education.

Kelli Palmer (Wasco, Warm Springs) is creating a traditional corn husk hat known as the patlapa. Kelli grew up on the Warm Springs Reservation.

When at a Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association gathering, Kelli's mother tricked her into walking around the room. Palmer ended up sitting down in her first class, and she's been weaving ever since.

She now teaches basketry classes throughout Oregon and Washington. Among numerous awards, she received Best in Show at the *Tribal Member Art Show* in Warm Springs in 2009 and Honorable Mention in 2011.

Acclaimed artist Joe Feddersen (Coville) is creating a basket that will be used to harvest roots in the spring. The contemporary sculptor, basket weaver, painter, photographer and mixed-media artist is well known for geometric patterns reflective of what is found in the environment, landscape and his Native American heritage.

See High Desert Artists on 3

A Year in Review ~ 2022 ~

The New Year is just around the corner, making this a good time to reflect upon some of the happenings over the past twelve months. During the year, there were new and intriguing developments on the reservation, and some that were not so new:

For instance (as explained further on page 2), this November and December have seen an increase in the incidence of Covid-19 among the community, including one tragic passing, due to covid, this past fall. This covid increase is happening nearly three years since the arrival on the reservation of the virus. On the other hand, and on a brighter note:

Some great new business projects took off in 2022, one of these being the exciting Kah-Nee-Ta rejuvenation project, as approved by Tribal Council and overseen for the tribes by Warm Springs Economic Development.

Another is the innovative and interesting Commissary business incubator project, overseen by the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

The following then are some of the memorable news highlights during 2022 on the reservation, as reported in the Spilyay Tymoo.

January

As happened elsewhere, early January 2022 on the reservation saw a significant spike in Covid-19 cases among the tribal community: This prompted another **temporary shut-down** of the tribal organization and the Warm Springs Academy. At one point in early January there were 145 known active covid cases on the reservation.

Meanwhile in January, the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes announced that **nominations for the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council** will happen in early February. The election will be in the spring. And this January news:

The team working on the new **Warm Springs Jail** project announced a potential preferred site for the future facility.

The preferred site is at the industrial park, the location identified following research by the jail planning team.

The identified site will be presented to the community for public review and comment, and finally presented to Tribal Council.

The new facility will be funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs



Courtesy

According to plan, a renewed Kah-Nee-Ta Village will open next year.

division of the Department of the Interior, which has already designated funding. The tribes have been without a local tribal jail for some time, due to the previous jail being obsolete due to its age and condition. And meanwhile:

The **Lincoln's Powwow** Committee announced in January that the February powwow would have to be cancelled again due to the increase in covid. Elsewhere: the Confederated Tribes and Health and Human Services hosted a January Employee Appreciation Day, held outside with the masks and distancing requirements.

February

In early February 2022 the three districts of the Confederated Tribes held their **Tribal Council**

nomination meetings. The meetings happened under the facemask and distancing mandates, with limited numbers of people allowed in the nomination rooms at any one time.

As a result of the nomination meetings: There were 17 nominees for the Agency District; eight for the Simnasho District; and six for Seekseequa. Elsewhere in February:

A crew with Alpine Abatement Associates did some health and safety work on the tribes' **historic Commissary building**. This involved removing lead paint from the building; so the eventual move would not disturb the paint.

Once ready, a contracting firm will transport the building, most carefully, to the new location. This is the Commissary business incubator, a project the Warm Springs Community Action Team with support of Tribal Council.

2022 Review continues on 3



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