



Spilyay Tymoo

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\$2 million for new housing

The Confederated Tribes, through the Warm Springs Housing Authority, are moving forward with a new affordable housing project on Kuckup Loop. This is made possible by a \$2 million grant that will in time fund the construction of eight single-family homes. "We're very excited about this, and hoping for the best project possible," said Danielle Wood, Warm Springs Housing Authority Executive Director.

This type of funding—a \$2 million Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block grant, or ICDBG—is an annual grant opportunity with the grant application process being competitive. "This has been a team effort," Ms. Wood said, "and I have the best team." While demonstrating the pressing need for new houses, past and current grant performance and compliance, having qualified staff, and timely audit submissions are key to qualifying, Danielle said.

The eight new stick-built homes will be built on vacant lots along Kuckup. The first phase of the project will be an environmental assessment and cleanup. The construction process will take some time though the project holds great promise; the Housing Authority already is working on a new grant that may fund phase 2 of the Kuckup improvement project. A good thing is that this particular area of Warm Springs already has established infrastructure in place, Ms. Wood said.

Spay-a-Thon beginning this weekend

The June and early July weekend Spay-a-Thon in Warm Springs begins this Saturday, June 3. The series of veterinarian clinics are free to resident pet-owners, designed to improve the lives of dogs and cats, and the pet owners of the reservation.

The Spay-a-Thon is hosted by Fences for Fido with First Nations Veterinary and Clinic HQ.

The clinics will be during the four weekends in June and the first Sunday in July at the Warm Springs Agency Fire Station. There are two ways to register for the event:

First, You can visit: firstnationsvet.com/warm-springs-nation

Or you can make and appointment by phone at 503-451-0765. Each pet will receive a spay or neuter, vaccines, microchip and flea and tick medicine. Requirements are:

Pets must be between 2 months and 5 years old, and weigh less than 60 pounds. The clinics are open to residents with pets who live within the boundary of the reservation of Confederated Tribes.

Inspiring stories at Medicine Wheel Recovery

Evaristo Antunez is the mentor supervisor at Medicine Wheel Recovery Services, located at St. Helens on the Columbia just north of Portland.

He first arrived at the Medicine Wheel center some years ago seeking recovery. Since then the changes in his life have been profound, and now he is helping to change, and even save the lives of others. "Evaristo is a success story," said Tana Howtopat, co-executive director of Medicine Wheel Recovery Services.

Mr. Antunez went to Medicine Wheel Recovery for help, and made the successful transition. Evaristo then decided to stay in St. Helens and assist others in overcoming addiction. "We provided the education, and now he is the recovery supervisor," Tana says.

Evaristo is from Warm Springs, and Tana also lived here for several years; so their names may be familiar, as may be the names of others from the Warm Springs community who have made new lives through Medicine Wheel Recovery Services.

Leroy Smith and Erickson Lucei work at the Medicine Wheel child wellness drop-in center. Clarissa Howtopat, Tana's daughter, is the clinical supervisor for the men's program.

Isaiah Teewee, Stuart Smith,



Tana Howtopat photo

At Medicine Wheel: Tony Gilbert, Leroy Smith, Stuart Smith, Tommy Napyer, Everisto Antunez, Izaiah Teewee, Erickson Lucei. Not pictured is Johnnie Smith, Clarissa Howtopat, Tanner Yallup and Doris Lawrence (from left).

Johnnie Smith and Tony Gilbert are certified recovery mentors. Doris Lawrence is a Medicine Wheel family support specialist. Tommy Napyer is the transportation supervisor, and Tanner Yallup is the Human Resources specialist.

As mentioned, and as Warm Springs is a close community, these individuals are likely known to many. "Each of them is currently in recovery from substance abuse," Tana says. "And all have made substantial life changes, now working to help others attempting recovery." Their stories are inspiring for anyone facing these kinds of problems.

Before coming to Medicine Wheel Recovery, many of the individuals had never had a driver's license or a job. They may have been in trouble with the law, or with family and friends. "It can feel hopeless to live in Warm Springs," Tana says. "There are not that many job opportunities, and many people are using substances."

Lives can fall almost completely apart with no ready solution. And then with some help there is a chance for recovery.

"All of this goes to show people can change," Tana says, "and with some purpose in the heart, we can

do amazing things."

Tana recounts an incident that happened the other day at the recovery center: Walking into one of the discussion rooms, she overheard some of the conversation. "They were talking about credit scores and financing a vehicle," she says. "They were sharing family recipes. They have their children in their lives again They have their lives back."

Anyone interested in learning more can reach out at: thowtopay@medicinewheelrecovery.com

— Dave McMechan

An early closure to Columbia spring tribal fishery

Spring tribal fisheries were closed in mid May on the Columbia River, after it was determined that fewer fish are returning this spring than initially predicted. After the tribal closure, non-tribal fisheries were allowed another six days on the river because they had caught significantly fewer fish than tribal fisheries, according to the Colum-

bia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Initially, it was predicted that 198,600 fish would return to the Columbia River, but that forecast was downgraded to 139,000 on May 14—a decline of 60,000 fish, said CRITFC spokesman Jeremy FiveCrows. "That's a pretty significant drop when you talk about those numbers," he said.

This was the earliest the spring tribal fishing season had closed in recent history, said Stuart Ellis, commission harvest management biologist. "This is a fairly early one," he said. "We've closed in early June in the past. It's not very often that we run out of fish in the spring."

Fish allocations on the Columbia River are split between tribal and nontribal fisheries.

The updated May forecast resulted in each getting 7.4 percent of the run. That's to allow enough fish for tributary fishing and spawning. About the time of the tribal closure, tribal fisheries had caught 9,907 fish while nontribal fishers had caught 2,831, according to CRITFC. *More on the fishery on page 3.*

For better water

Lawmakers and federal agency officials joined tribal leaders this week to launch the construction process for a new drinking water treatment plant to serve the tribes. Close to \$29 million from various sources—mainly through Indian Health Service and Environmental Protection Agency—is now available for the project.

The last several years of domestic water service to most of the reservation "are a shameful legacy," Sen. Wyden commented. "The tribes have waited for too long for what is a basic right, clean drinking water."

"Water is central to everything," Sen. Merkley added last week during the project launch gathering at the treatment plant.

"From our crops, to rivers and oceans, and human consumption."

On behalf of the tribes, Council Chairman Jonathan Smith thanked the senators, and the EPA and IHS officials for their support. "For us, water is life," Chairman Smith. "It's the first thing we set down at the longhouses and at feasts. And clean water and water infrastructure are at the top of Tribal Council priorities," he said.

The new treatment plant will be built next to the existing one, on the Deschutes River in the Dry Creek area. The timeline for the design and planning, bidding and construction is in the range of 4 to 5 years.

For the new treatment plant, IHS is contributing \$14 million. The EPA is adding another \$10.3 million. And Senators Wyden and



D. McMechan/Spilyay

Cpt. Mat Martinson, EPA Region 10 manager for Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure; Alex Dailey, IHS director of Sanitation Facility Construction, Area 10; Sen. Wyden; Chairman Smith at the podium, and Sen. Merkley (from left).

Merkley championed the inclusion of \$5 million in the Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021.

Sen. Merkley is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Wyden is on the Finance Committee.

They've worked together the past number of years in making the reservation water system a funding priority. The new treatment plant will replace the current one that was built in the 1980s, and is well beyond its projected lifespan.

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