Ventures resumes pursuit of hemp grow

Warm Springs Ventures has announced the enterprise is again actively pursuing the tribal can-nabins-hemp project. The project had been on hold for a time, as new and important USDA regulations regarding hemp were not in effect. The USDA will implement the new regulations—treating hemp much as a regular agricultural crop, able to cross state lines, for instance—in the near future. The Ventures decision, announced by board chair Pamela Keo Douglas,means the enterprise will pursue the plan to purchase a greenhouse and office modular building. The tribal hemp grow operation will be just off the reservation, on the tribally-owned Schoenhagen farm property, along Highway 26 across the Deschutes from the reservation. Ms. Keo Douglas announced: “On October 29 USDA issued the Interim Final Rule for the hemp regulations that will take effect once entered into in the Federal Register, and that is expected to happen by Friday.” The tribe has submitted the plan for hemp production, under which the tribe will monitor and regulate the production of hemp in the territory of the tribe, to USDA for review and approval. The office of USDA has 60 days to take action on the plan submitted by the tribe.” The tribe also expects that, in order to receive funding following the supplemental budget process, the enterprise must have its own bank account. The enterprise will continue to pursue local and credit union banking options.

Contemporary, Traditional Judges Choice Winners

The Tsimiak—Cut beaded medallion. The artist is Clarissa Picard. Winner: Judges Choice Award Traditional Category. The Twenty-Sixth Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit will be on display through mid January 2020. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Sunday and Monday.

$500 SLOT TOURNAMENT
2pm | $15 buy-in, unlimited buy-ins. Veterans first entry FREE*

VETERANS DAY FREE BREAKFAST*
8-11am

Indian Head giving for holidays

Indian Head Casino, partnering with Warm Springs Food Bank, is hosting the fall annual Cans for Coins drive. The goal is to collect donations of canned food.

The food drive will benefit the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church Food Bank, said Belinda Chavez, Indian Head director of community relations. “As a company, we have a unique position to do something about hunger,” Chavez said. “With our guests and gamers get involved by bringing in cans of food. And in doing so, you earn slot play here at Indian Head Casino.”

The Cans for Coins food drive kicked off on Monday of this week. Guests who bring in 10 cans of food earn $10 in Bonus Slot Play every Monday through Thursday for the duration of the food drive. The drive will end December 19.

Canned goods must be a minimum size of 10 ounces, with an expiration date of beyond six months.

The Warm Springs Presbyterian Church Food Bank is a partner agency with the Oregon Hunger Prevention Coalition/Oregon Food Bank and Neighbor Impact. Indian Head Casino plans to deliver all donated canned goods to the Food Bank in both late November and in December, benefiting local families and individuals of the Warm Springs Reservation.

“The fall season is typically one of abundance,” Belinda said. “By raising awareness of hunger in our community at this time of year, we make a lasting impact in hearts and minds. We remind people that hunger is present every single day of the year.”

Veterans Day Parade

Veterans Day in Warm Springs will feature the Honor Parade, November 11, starting at 11 a.m. The parade will finish at the Community Center. A meal will be provided at noon, followed by presentations and entertainment. Warm Springs Indian Head Casino is hosting a Veterans Day for special programming to honor all Veterans.

Tribes–St. Charles agreement

 Patients from the Warm Springs clinic are at times referred to service providers outside the reservation—specialty care clinics, for instance. This happens on a regular basis, so coordination among service providers is obviously very important. This week saw a great accomplishment in better coordination, with the signing of the Care Co-ordination Agreement between the tribes, Managed Care and the St. Charles Health System. The signing happened at the November meeting of the Joint Health Commission, representing the tribes and the Indian Health Service.

At the signing this week were Michael Collins, Managed Care director; Mike Marcotte, former Managed Care director and Joint Health Commissioner; Michele Miller, acting IHS clinic director; Heather Crow-Martinez, counselor and Health Commission chair; Caroline Cruz, Health and Human Services general manager, commission secretary; Dr. Rachel Locker, commissioner; TJ Politz, Health and Human Services commissioner (back row from left); and Darren Bender, St. Charles legal affairs; Joe Ikisa, president and chief executive officer, St. Charles Medical Center; Louie Pat, director of tribal Governmental Affairs, acting S-T for the signing; and Bruce Anderson, St. Charles Legal Affairs.

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Native American Heritage Month at COCC

Tribal members and the Warm Springs community are a big part of the Central Oregon Community College’s higher education experience. Each year more Native American students enroll at COCC, studying in a vast variety of fields, graduating in successively higher numbers.

The COCC Native American Student program and First Nations Student Union are support network for formal and informal programs available to Native students who are enrolled in these programs. And the program and university host special events throughout the year. They present the annual Native American Heritage Month, and sponsor the First Nations Student Union Scholarship. The program and First Nations Student Union host special events throughout the year. They present the annual Native American Heritage Month, and sponsor the First Nations Student Union Scholarship.

November is Native American Heritage Month, and in honor COCC will present a number of special events. For more details on a specific event, please see the Native American Heritage Month events.

Film screening
The Navajo Code Talkers is a fascinating story of World-War II. It’s a film screening of the acclaimed documenter Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, and will be at the COCC campuses in Madras and Bend.

The Bend campus screening will be on Thursday, November 14 from 5:30-7 p.m. Light dinner provided.

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November 6, 2019

American Heritage Month, mcary@cocc.edu 541-318-3782; or email: Michelle Cary, COCC Native American program coordinator. The COCC Native American program coordinator, and Felsikiana Conner, Umatilla member, at the 2018 Native American Heritage Month celebration.

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Blue Flame concert Scott Kaluna, aka Blue Flame, will perform rap and share some of his hip-hop videos on Friday, November 22 from 6 to 7 p.m. The show will be at COCC’s Willa Hale in Bend. Winner of the 2016 Native American Music Award for Best Music Video—for his video Reg Jag—Blue Flame is a first- generation Native American student. The show will be at COCC’s Willa Hale in Bend. Winner of the 2016 Native American Music Award for Best Music Video—for his video Reg Jag—Blue Flame is a first- generation Native American student.

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Veterans Day tribute with students of ROTC

The Reserve Officer Training Corps at Madras High School is a perpetual program with cadets from Warm Springs. This reflects the milo long tradition of service in the branches of the U.S. military.
The high school ROTC program is doing great again this year, under the guidance of Captain Briggs.

This Veterans Day—Monday, November 11—will feature the Warm Springs Veterans Club, including students of the Madras High School ROTC.

The parade begins at 11 a.m. by the courthouse, the cookies will serve lunch. Listen to KWSO for special Veterans Day programs.

Memorial tributes on the parade will end at the community center, where the wreaths will be placed.

Thurslady, November 7
The Warm Springs Community Center is having Senior lunch at noon. The menu: Muffin omlet. Seniors 80 and older eat for free, 59 and under are $5 and adults are $7. It is available at the Senior Wellness Center.

There is an Alcohols Anonymous meeting today at noon at the Behavioral Health Center, and a Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 6 p.m. at the Shaker Church.

There is a Food Handler class today from 9 to 4 p.m. at the Healthcare and Wellness Center at the clinic. The next Food Handler’s Class is Monday, November 21. If you have any questions, contact 541-553-1196.

Friday, November 8
A senior citizen fitness class is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:45 a.m. at the Shaker Church. After class, participants can eat brunch. On the menu: Beef Stew Soup. There is a behavior Health Walk-In clinic today. Appointments are available between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. The medical social workers at the clinic work with screenings, assessments, crisis referral, and many other things for children, adolescents and adults.

Saturday, November 9
There is an Alcohols Anonymous meeting this morning at 10 at the Behavioral Health Center. Today is the second class of two for the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

Sunday, November 10
Warm Springs Christian Fellowship meets this morning at 10 at the Senior Center. There is an anonymous meeting at 11 at the Shaker Church.

The Warm Springs Food Bank is located at the Presbyterian Church. They are open from 11:30 to 1:30 today after services. All food banks and pantries do take donations of non-perishable food or cash.

Children Education class is Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. This is a 3-week series that focuses on pregnancy, labor and delivery, and Mom and Baby Care.

There is an appointment to book for 12:15 at the Senior Center.

There is a tribal clinic meeting at 6 p.m. at the Shaker Church. All food will be served. There is a senior citizen fitness class on the menu.

Veterans Day: Memorial parade.

Veterans Day: American Legion.

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Tueslady, November 12
A Senior Lunch is served this morning at the Shaker Church. Seniors 80 and older eat for free, 59 and under are $5 and youth under 13 are $3 at the Senior Wellness Center.

The Jefferson County Food Bank is located at 505 SE Seventh Street in Madras. They are open for distribution this afternoon.

There is a Warrant for Wellbriety meeting this evening at High Lookout Lodge. They have drum practice at 6:30, and the meeting is at 7:30.

Wednesday, November 13
The Native American Program Legal Aid Service of Oregon will be at the Community Action Team office between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. in the noon. Walk-ins are welcome.

On the menu:

Meat ball subs.
Warm Springs Christian Fellowship has Bible study at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The Warm Springs Baptist Church has Bible Study and Prayer this evening at 6 p.m. - Wyval Rosamilia - ext. 7737.

Security officer (full time) - Tim Kerr ext. 7749.

Plateau Travel Plaza
The following positions are advertised with the Plateau Travel Plaza in Madras:

- Server (part time) - Arlen Culips, 541-777-2817.

- Cashier/Fuel attendant - Darrell Jones - 541-777-2815.

- Custodian - Darrel.

- Social Security - Vivian Rose - ext. 7728.

- Joey - ext. 7729.

- Maintenance - Limited duration - Laborer.

- Maintenance.

- Wildlife biologist.

- Home visitor.

- Prevention coordinator.

- Fisheries secretary.

- Fish biologist.

- Patrol lieutenant.

- Wastewater plant chief operator.

- Probate/Vital Stats receptionist.

- Health coordinator.

- Limited duration — Call.

- Officer.

- Telecommunications.

- Assistant juvenile prosecutor.

- Budget-contratct and grant analyst.

- GIS specialist.

- Corrections officer (three positions).

- Fisheries department manager.

- Education coordinator.

- Range & Ag manager.

- Family/child service coordinator.

- Community Health services director.

- Security officer (three positions).

- Fuel/energy.

- Assistant Tribal prosecutor.

- Chief of police.

- Fish Tech.

- Tribal veterans repre.

- Lead custodian.

- Indian Head Casino.

The following are positions advertised with the Indian Head Casino.

- Players Club host.

Contact Naomi Stby - 541- 466-7777 ext. 7754.

Slot keyperson (3 full-time positions) - Kyle Schackmann - ext. 7752.

Server (part time) - Healthy Coly - ext. 7719.

Sous Chef - Peggy Farla - ext. 7726.

Line cook - Peggy Farla - ext. 7729.

Server 2 (part time) - Heather.

Tule Grill attendant (1 full-time 1 part-time) - Alex Mansano or Chris.

Tule Grill cook - Alex or Christine.

Cage cashier (2 full time) - Wyal Rosamilia - ext. 7737.

Security officer (2 full-time) - Tim Kerr ext. 7749.
**For health**

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center will host the Lunch and Learn this Thursday, November 7, from 12 to 1 p.m. The lunch is free, and the topic of discussion will be blood pressure; how to work with symptoms of high blood pressure; and how to manage high blood pressure with lifestyle changes. The lunch and learn is open to the public.

**School supplies**

Students in need of school supplies can pick up some at the Warm Springs Public Library on Wednesday, November 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. Basic supplies are available to students during the library’s regular business hours.

**Acupuncture**

There will be a free Acupuncture session on Wednesday, November 13, at the Warm Springs Community Center. The session will be from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

**Candidate**

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center will host a guest presenter, Friday, November 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The guest presenter will be Dr. Mark Badgley, director of Duke University Medical School. Dr. Badgley has been in practice for over 20 years. He presents regularly to Internal Medicine in Bend.

Dr. Badgley is the Duke National Blood Pressure Control Champion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Million Hearts Campaign.

**Howlak Tichum**

In loving memory — Tracy D. Fuentes — 1980–2019

Tracy D. Fuentes, born on June 11, 1980, of Warm Springs, was taken from the world on September 30, 2019.

An announcing his run for Oregon’s 4th Congressional District and the Oregon Senate, Congressman Greg Walden, a long-time friend of the family, said, “We believe the election is in the hands of the voters.”

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Tracy was an avid birdwatcher who loved to shoot his guns. He also loved hunting, camping and the occasional fishing. We can definitely re-embrace his love for AV].

He was the type of person who could always bring your spirits up in matters the situation, always being the joker.

Tracy is survived by his parents, and his twin sister. They will always be remembered by all who had him close in their lives.

**‘Parrallel Lives’ reading with Ed Edmo and Lani Roberts**

Born October 1, 1946, Lani Roberts is a member of the Warm Springs Tribe and a graduate of the University of Oregon. Roberts began her career as a Native consultant in 1987 and has since worked for a variety of organizations and tribes. In 1990, she was named executive director of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Roberts is also a member of the Oregon State Senate and has served as the chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. She has been a champion for indigenous rights and has worked to ensure that Native American voices are heard in the political process. She is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and she is a vocal advocate for Indigenous rights and issues.

**Shelter**

Due to the recent drop in temperatures, a temporary warming shelter has been opened at the former Youth Center in Warm Springs, the former elementary school, where the Boys and Girls Club was located. The club is no longer in use.

The shelter at the youth center will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the hours.

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Capacity for the shelter is estimated at 15 people. Each person wanting to utilize the shelter will be screened before being admitted.

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Jeremy Doney of Warm Springs gave a feature performance at a recent L’Arche Portland fundraiser, leaving the audience in awe of his talent. Mr. Doney is a piano player, known for his album, *In the Garden*. He plays special events around the region. Jeremy has performed and recorded with composer Michael Allen Harrison.

Over his lifetime, Jeremy has developed a virtuoso piano style. He has been blind since a very young age. Today he lives in Warm Springs with his grandmother Ramona Starr.

The mission of L’Arche Portland is to make known the gifts of people with intellectual challenges, revealing these gifts through transformative relationships:

“Many relationships, and the journey at the heart of our journey together,” reads the L’Arche Portland mission. “We celebrate the unique value of every person, and recognize our need of one another.”

L’Arche Portland has many members in over 150 communities around the world. The recent fundraiser, featuring the Jeremy Doney performance, supports the mission of L’Arche Portland. As the L’Arche executive director Andrew Noethe says: “For 30 years L’Arche Portland has supported people, sharing life across differences in our Sahahlum and Nishnabik homes. In recent years we have embraced and emphasized the importance of our larger circle of friends.”

L’Arche Portland is working toward a new home, designed to emphasize the natural friendship, rather than paid care between housemates. And they are working on one-on-one supports for people with intellectual disabilities, beyond the L’Arche homes.

Jeremy Doney performs at L’Arche Portland.
The Eighth Annual Warm Springs Cougar Youth Christmas Co-Ed Basketball Tournament is coming up December 20-22. Divisions: Youth co-ed divisions for 10 years and under; 12 years and under and; seventh-eighth grade co-ed divisions. For all three divisions the first six teams to register will play. Deadline to register is December 5. Entry fee is $150 per team.

The tournament will be at the Warm Springs Community Center. Tourney director is Austin Greene, Recreation director. His email is: austin.greene@wstribes.org

You can reach him by phone at 541-553-3243 (w); or 541-553-1953 (h).

Tournament awards include ten champion hoodies for each division; runner-up crew necks; finalist t-shirts, All Tourney; and coaches t-shirts.

Guarantee of three games for each team; round robin then single elimination bracket.

Age deadline is December 20. Bring tribal identification.

At the Warm Springs Community Center gym, the New Year will bring the Fifty-Ninth Annual All-Indian Men’s Holiday Basketball tourney, January 1–4, 2020. The deadline to register is December 13. Entry fee is $375. Awards will be:


Other awards: Most Valuable Player. Mr. Hustle. All Tourney selection.

For information contact Austin Greene, tournament director, 541-553-3243 (w); or 541-553-1953 (h). Or you can email: austin.greene@wstribes.org

MHS winter sports

Winter sports at Madras High School are starting a little more than three weeks from now. The girls varsity basketball season begins on Wednesday, December 4. This will be an away game at Hidden Valley High School.

The first home game will be Friday, December 6 against Woodburn High School; followed by another home game against Crook County on Tuesday, December 10.

The boys’ season opens at home against Hidden Valley on December 4, followed by an away game on December 10 at Crook County; with a home tournament starting on December 10. The JV teams, Fresh/Soph and Freshman basketball seasons—and the Swimming and Wrestling seasons—all begin in early December.

The Madras High School Native American Student Union will meet on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 13. The meeting, in Mr. Jones classroom, will start at 3:15 p.m. For more information contact Gordon Scott at 503-347-5778.
Many horses treated at W.S. gelding clinic

by Beth Matheney

Warm Springs Horse Network

Gelding is a practice long-entrenched in the world of tribal wild horse herd management. However, the practice of gelding—or castration—represents far more than simply a medical procedure, performed on stallions to prevent future breeding.

The entire equine castration action is deeply rooted in tribal tradition. Forty of 50 years ago Warm Springs family members practiced equine castration as a necessity for healthy herd management. It was time of celebration for Warm Springs family members, as they often gathered together for the preservation of the herds that also provided the tribal traditions and lifestyle.

Both men and women rode together, gathering horses from the wild, gathering them as selected for breeding and the castration procedure.

All young men were expected to participate as well, learning how to work with the horses, and become productive members of the family. The practice still exists, connecting families and upholding tradition.

It was even more important to witness a tribal castration action. I did this in conjunction with Oregon State University. I heard many stories of how the entire family’s men, women and children would ride together on their saddle horses, gathering and bringing in wild horses from reservation lands.

Tribal member Taco Lee Wich is proud of his heritage, ancestry and family. He says sparked as he shared his own story with me, “Even my grandparents were part of the day.” He expressed his pride in family stewardship, as he explained that the youngest boys were not allowed to play until the day’s chores were finished.

At the OSU horse clinic in October, Taco Lee was a luz accompanied by his father and all his family work together. The Lincoln Jay Suppah family also rides together, gathering up wild horses for many weeks prior to the castration clinic. Fay Harrdalo is considered the matriarch of the family. Her equine knowledge and organizational skills are one of the driving forces behind this family’s successful place in the equine world. Most importantly, Fay has always kept the traditional tribal ways at the center of what is being accomplished with the horses. Fay strongly believes in the importance of keeping tribal horse herd managers manageable and healthy, through good practices and gelding young stallions.

She said that in the early 2000s there were so many reservation horses that one million could claim up to 50 manes.

For forward to 2008—when in a moment of your meets the present—Fay summoned the OSU Department of Animal Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine. Together they orchestrated a well-planned castration clinic in Warm Springs.

Fay remembers how the notification of the ‘lost art of family gatherings’ was aided by the Oregon State program. It was a Hernology clinic that combined both tribal members working on horseback and OSU staff and students, who turned gelding.

Lunch was provided to all, as we formed positive partnerships. In 2011 Fay provided participants with primed tees that read “I survived Dire, Doze and Dragging.” That statement proudly represented that day’s accomplishments.

The clinic in October was the thirteenth successful year for the event. Twenty-one horses were successfully gelded.

This fall’s event team included Warm Springs Agri- culture, Range and Ag and the Bureau of Natural Re- sources, and the OSU Veteri- nary School.

Natural Resources organized and facilitated this exceptional day of learning, sharing and communication.

Among the participants were Dr. Jacob Mecham, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and assistant professor of Equine Science Faculty, and Dr. Jorge Vanegas, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, associate professor of Clin- ical Sciences and Rural Vet- erinary Practice.

On hand was Dr. Vanessa De Souza, resident, graduate student in Theriogenology, specializing in reproductive medicine and provided guidance. Dr. Mecham summed up the results of this particular clinic as a win-win for students and horses. “The Warm Springs gelding clinic is a large portion of the experience the students receive regarding gelding,” she docketed.

All participating gelding clinic students were women this year. “A fine in his his- tory,” Vanegas stated proudly that day’s accomplishments.

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Film tells of 30-year fight for justice

Most tribal members have heard the name Elouise Cobell, also known as Yellow Bird Woman. It was Ms. Cobell's groundbreaking class action lawsuit—Cobell v. Salazar—that challenged the federal government's mishandling of trust funds belonging to more than half-a-million Native Americans across Indian Country.

The late Ms. Cobell, of the Blackfoot Confederacy, passed away in 2011, before the final settlement of her lawsuit filed in 1996. You can learn more of Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with

The late Elouise Cobell

The Fort Vancouver Visitors Center will show the film on Saturday evening, November 9. The center is located at 1501 E. Evergreen Blvd., Vancouver, Washington. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and the film begins at 5:30. The presentation will be followed by a talk with education leader Patsy Whitefoot, of the Yakama Nation. Tickets are $10, and $5 for students and elders. You can reach the visitors center at 360-816-6230.

You can learn more of Ms. Cobell's 30-year fight for justice with

Horses: valuable partnership for health of the animals

The late Elouise Cobell

The October 2019 Gelding Clinic was a representative of the Warm Springs Reservation. It was Maura Gibson, Veterinary medical officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who took blood samples from each horse, testing for equine infectious anemia—EIA—and Coggins disease. EIA is a potentially fatal blood-borne infectious viral disease that produces a persistent infection among equids nearly worldwide.

Although the disease has been recognized for centuries, its prevalence began to rise in the 1980s, reaching its de-structive peak in the U.S. between the 1990s and 2000s. This year one case of EIA at Warm Pasture was identified and reported. Records are maintained for EIA. The results of all testing performed at the October Warm Springs clinic are soon available. Scott Duggan is the OSU Extension service agent for the Central Oregon region, with the Animal and Rangeland Science Department. Mr. Duggan was on hand for the clinic. Scott was there to assist with the process of holding horses. He was instrumental in communicating tribal needs and service assessments.

Scott's facilitation services are invaluable to the Confederated Tribes. He also provided lunch, very much appreciated. My presence at the Gelding Clinic was a representative of the Warm Springs Horse Network, or WSHN. The Horse Network has established a tribe of the equine community since its inception in May 2014. The WSHN is dedicated to helping raise awareness to benefit the Warm Springs Reservation foals and foals. Our continued communication with tribal members and the general public—combined with educational opportunities and special events that make a difference—have helped to make the horses of Warm Springs the admired Pacific Northwest American Heritage horses from the Warm Springs Reservation. These WSHN horses are sought after for many disciplines, and have even been relocated to various parts of the world as far away as England.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs follows many traditional beliefs, holding the horse in high esteem. We treasure the continued communication, friendships and partnerships formed with the Warm Springs tribal members. The October 2019 Gelding Clinic is a perfect example of successful cooperation, combining traditional ways with today's world innova-
tions. Positive progression and cooperation are making the difference in the lives of many.
Indian student count finally being updated for the modern era

Around Indian Country

Slowly but surely, the Trump administration is working to modernize the popular Johnson-O’Malley Innovation and Opportunity Act Program for Indian students.

The program helps students get a wide range of initiatives, from school supplies and earning competitive to field trips and provoors, for Indian students across the nation. But funding levels have been stuck at 1995, despite increases in cost and growth in numbers of eligible students. Thanks to a new federal law that tribes, Indian educators, and supporters in Congress fought for, the situation is finally changing.

In the last session of Congress, the Johnson-O’Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act was signed into law last December. According to the new law, the Johnson-O’Malley program would be reauthorized for another five years and $1.3 billion would be provided for Indian education programs.

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In the past, when a patient was referred to an off-reservation provider, Managed Care would not hear back from the provider as to the service provided, diagnosis, future treatment, etc. In order to get this information, Managed Care would have to rely on the patient: This would involve the patient providing a release of information, for instance.

The situation was inconvenient, requiring additional and at times unnecessary contact with the patient.

The new Care Coordination Agreement now allows Managed Care and the clinic to hear directly from the provider without the need of inconveniencing the patient, or creating additional hurdles for Managed Care.

The billing for the off-reservation services will also be streamlined. Billing for patients covered by Medicaid can now be covered directly and 100-percent by the federal program. In the past the Oregon Health Plan was a partial payer, and would then seek reimbursement from the federal program. The new agreement creates the more direct billing option.

In the end the goal of the agreement is to improve care for tribal patients of the clinic, said Michael Collins, director of Managed Care.

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