

Takilma Community Building grows wings

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IVN Contributing Writer

Decades of dreaming and hard work finally culminate for the people of Takilma. With the community building's addition of two sound-proof classrooms and a library, the children of the Dome School have a safe and comfortable place to learn, leaving the main 40 feet by 60 feet room open for public use.

Saturday, April 28 will be a celebration of this success. Historical photos will be displayed by Dr. Jim Shames and Takilma Common Ground Anthologies will be available (including the newest, Vol. 3). In addition, Lebanese food will be offered by the Galloping Goose, with music by Nomads of Bend and Grin Hound.

Admission is free. If you purchase a beer or a new Takilma Community Building T-shirt designed by Dallion McGregor, proceeds go toward the remaining balance owed on construction.

The Dome School began in 1975 as a result of families coming together to homeschool their children. It is a parent co-operative that was designated a non-profit in 1976. Three years later, eight acres of tree-covered property was acquired by the community through a work trade with Longview Fiber; the Takilma Community Building as we know it was erected.

Five days a week for 43 years, it has been housing the Dome School children, becoming increasingly popular due to the focus on creativity and individuality. While other schools are losing programs in the arts, the Dome School is gaining them.

Kindergarten through sixth grade was taught in one large room with a sliding

divider. Ptaryn Roberson, a teacher at the school, gave a description, "The kids couldn't focus. Someone would have to walk through classrooms to get to the office or bathroom and the noise was overwhelming."

Plans for expansion began in the mid-nineties. Doug Kendall, the builder of the original dome, designed an addition of two classrooms and a commercial kitchen, which was published in Takilma Common Ground, summer 1998. With fundraising and grant-writing, a commercial kitchen was constructed for public rental and emergency use.

Construction comes with hefty bills and building the classrooms proved difficult. In 2015, the Expansion Committee was formed by parents and community members who have been raising funds and ironing out details. Ryan Forsythe is one of three school administrators, parent to DS students, and a member of the Expansion Committee. In the grant-writing, he would describe the addition as a "Win-win situation; for the students and for the community." Six organizations donated, equating to around one-third of the funds.

The rest of the money was raised through events held at the community building; bake sales, personal donations, and much more. In early 2018 the classrooms were completed.

Results of the expansion have been immense. "The kids used to be hitting and arguing, now they respect each other. They actually feel like cleaning up after themselves because they can claim this space. It's theirs now," reported Roberson.

With the kiddos in the classroom, the Takilma Community Building is back. What can it be used for? Let's follow the kids' lead and use our imagination.



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

Children participate in classroom activities in the new classroom Wednesday, April 18.

THORPE ...

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"I practice primarily civil litigation, including family law and a wide variety of other fields," she stated. "I serve twice a month as a pro tem judge hearing traffic, county and city code violations, landlord and tenant matters and small claims cases. I have greatly enjoyed that experience and my service has been well-received."

Thorpe said she is very active in the legal community, serving on the Family Law Advisory Committee, OWLS board of directors, OSB policy and procedures committee, mock trial judge (GPHS and HVHS), GPHS Will-a-thon volunteer 2007-17, Family Law Executive Committee Secretary, among others.

"My activities reflect my passion for the law and our local community."

Thorpe said she wants to encourage everyone to get out and vote.

"I hope that when they cast a vote for judge, they vote for Amanda C. Thorpe, but most importantly, that they vote."



Amanda Thorpe

GALLI ...

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"This complex problem is an enormous concern for our entire community," he said. "There is no penicillin for opioid addiction that a person can take to just make it go away. While a judge has a limited ability to create new programs, my experience as a deputy D.A. and in representing those suffering from addiction gives me added and unique insight into possible solutions."

Galli said it is his hope that the community can build upon

the success of programs such as Drug Court.

"At the same time, we need to continue to work with community partners to encourage further development that will provide incentives to get clean and real consequences to those that don't."

Galli graduated with a bachelor's in political science from Oregon State University in 1989. He then graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 1992. He worked for Myrick, Adams, Davis and Day as an associate attorney from 2002-2004. He currently works with Davis, Freudenberg, Day and Galli as a Partner since 2004.

"My practice is divided with approximately one-third in the area of criminal law and dependency matters, one-

third family law and one-third that includes estate planning, formation of business entities, adoption, probate, real estate disputes, property line disputes, landlord and tenant matters and guardianships."

Galli said he has served this judicial district as a Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem since 2004.

"In those nearly 14 years, I have heard hundreds, likely over a thousand cases," he said. "Primarily those cases are traffic court matters, small claims, landlord/tenant, violations of city ordinances and MIP cases."

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