

Nikiya Courtney earns award

Tribal member Nikiya Courtney was honored recently for his outstanding leadership abilities. A recent graduate of Madras High School, Nikiya was honored by Oregon Health Reform, at a dinner last month in Portland.

Nikiya was nominated for the award by his teacher Martha Ahern, who has been impressed by Nikiya's positive attitude and role modeling amongst peers and the community.

Nikiya was one of just two people in the state chosen by Oregon Health Reform for the special honor. The two were chosen for their outstanding leadership abilities.

Nikiya, the son of Steve and Sheryl Courtney, has never let his disability get in the way of achieving his goals. He has been active in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, spokes person for Easter Seals and ROTC program and his church.

He along with his family have raised funds for and set up the Oregon Games for the Physically Challenged State Games. Nikiya along with four other tribal youths were the first team to compete and represent the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs at these Oregon State Games for the Physically Challenged.

They took first place in all the events they entered. Being involved in these activities has given Nikiya his leadership abilities to overcome any barriers, and maintain a positive outlook.

While in school, Nikiya had some great support from people who have had a big impact on the person Nikiya is today. He said:

"I would like to acknowledge them, Martha Ahern, Della Russo, Francis my aide for 3 years for pushing me and challenging me daily, Mrs.



Photo by Dave McMechan
Nikiya Courtney was honored for role with peers, community.

Smith, my personal hairstylist Vanessa and last but not least my bud Jessie who went above and beyond the call of duty for me many times. I truly appreciate all of you. Oh, I can't forget my personal chauffeurs Doris and Virginia."

Nikiya would also like to acknowledge his supervisor Rob Collision for taking him on as a student intern for the past three years in the diabetes program, where he is a health technician.

Working at the Health and Wellness Center has given Nikiya an opportunity to work with health care professionals and explore the many health career opportunities available. He said:

"I would like to thank Russ Alger for giving me my first fulltime position working with the Health and Wellness Cen-

ter here in Warm Springs."

Nikiya along with his family, friends and coworkers traveled to the Benson Hotel in Portland to accept his award and a scholarship from the Oregon Health Reform. The dinner held in their honor was on Oct. 25.

Nikiya had to make an acceptance speech. He was a little apprehensive and nervous about speaking to CEO's and

managers of health care providers and board members.

Nikiya thanked his parents and friend Kippo, a close friend who has supported and given him encouragement.

Nikiya gave a special acknowledgement to his grandpa Dan, who has passed away, for never leaving him, and telling him, "If you put your mind to it my boy, you can do anything."

Nikiya ended his speech by encouraging anyone with a disability or health problem not to let the disability get in the way of achieving their goals.

Nikiya would also like to say to anyone who may have a job available, don't look at a person's disabilities, look at their abilities or possibilities as a person who may have a disability. He said:

"I can guarantee that a person with a disability will be one of your company's best assets. They will work twice as hard just to prove they can do a good job."

Nikiya has been accepted at the University of Montana, and will be transferring to Montana after completing a year at COCC in Bend.

His plans are to get his Masters as a psychologist or nutritionist. "I hope someday to have an opportunity to sit on the Governor's Boards as a Self Advocate. I would like to be a voice for our disabled people in Oregon," he said.



25 years ago in the Spilyay

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Veterans of Foreign Wars stage parade

Veterans Day was far from a solemn affair in Warm Springs. There was thoughtful remembrance of those veterans who were lost in wars, but the prevailing mood was cheerful pride.

VFW members and officials from a number of different Posts in Oregon joined Warm Springs' Elliott Palmer Post 4217 in its observance of what was termed the "real" Veterans Day -- November 11.

A parade through the campus, a ceremony in front of the administration building and a salmon lunch at the Community Center highlighted the day.

Mill pool awaits third life

A frog jumps from a clump of cat-tails. Milkweed plants broadcast their feathery seeds nearby.

This peaceful autumn scene is not unusual except that it is staged in a concrete hole in the ground that was once known as a swimming pool.

Idle since 1969, the old pool at the mill is rapidly returning to its natural state. But it apparently hadn't been forgotten. Plans are sprouting almost as fast as the approaching weeds.

The pool has had a varied history since it was built in 1950 for the employees of the Warm Springs Lumber Company. It is the only structure remaining of a whole complex of company homes. The once lively neighborhood began to decline after the 1964 flood, which exposed some hygienic problems: the water table was high, creating poor sewage conditions. ...

It's been seven years now and although the pool has provided a home for assorted flora and fauna, it may be called back into service by humans.

The swimming pool's third life -- if it is granted -- will be quite different. According to Persh Andrews, the mill is considering using the pool as a filtering system for the water used in sprinkling the adjacent log decks.

Warm Springs goes for Carter

A record turn-out of voters in Warm Springs chose Jimmy Carter for President in the November 2 election. Carter received 129 votes to Ford's 80 to McCarthy's 20.

Of the 439 registered voters, 239 made it to the polls. Frances Brunoe, Chairman of the Counting Board, said this was "a really good turn-out," suggesting that it was due to the interest of younger people in politics. Eighteen to twenty-one year olds accounted for a large part of those registering this year, she said.

Wide Spot announces Thanksgiving Pow-wow

The events and prizes have been arranged for the annual Thanksgiving Pow-wow to be held November 25-27 at the Agency Longhouse. Sponsored by the Wide Spot Drummers and Singers, the three-day affair should attract participants from Montana, Canada and all over the Northwest, according to Wide Spotter Wilfred Jim.

Pepsi Cola Pro-Am

Cloudy skies threatened but the rain never did fall on the Pepsi Cola Pro-Am Golf Tournament held at Kah-Nee-Ta November 5-7. The tournament was in two parts -- the pro-am on Friday and Saturday for which 25 pairs of four competed, and the pro-pro on Sunday which found 14 teams participating.

Harvey Hixon won the Pro-Am Tourney with a 3 under par 137. There was a four-way tie for second place that went to Kah-Nee-Ta's Golf Pro Jim Wilkinson, Bob McKendrick, Greg Snyder and Pat O'Donnell.

Best ball was earned by Bob McKendrick and his teammates Cecil Conner, Cecil Seyler and John Paulson. Tony Moschetti won Amateur Gross with 1 over par.

Spilyay Tymoo

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<http://www.warmsprings.com/community/news/index.htm>

Deadlines

The next issue publishes November 15, with a November 9 deadline for all letter, story and advertising submissions.

The November 29 edition has a November 20 deadline.

The December 13 issue has a December 7 deadline.

The December 27 issue has a December 21 deadline.

Announcements

The Spilyay encourages organizations and individuals to send notices of events of interest to the Warm Springs community.

The preferred method of delivery is via e-mail to spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org -- this saves staff members from having to re-type something you've already printed up, thus allowing us additional time for reporting, photography and other tasks.

You also may drop announcements in printed and/or computer disk format at the Spilyay offices, 1100 Wasco St. on the Warm Springs campus, or send them to Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761. Our fax number is 553-3539.

Please feel free to call if you have story or photo ideas, questions or comments. Our phone number is 553-3274.

Finally, please heed our deadlines -- Friday the week before publication for all submitted materials. Thank you.