

Around the rez

COCC cuts impact Warm Springs

The Oregon State Legislature, due to a budget shortfall, is slashing funding for community colleges statewide. The Warm Springs Tribal Education Center, branch to Central Oregon Community College, is feeling the economic blow this school year.

"We're seeing cuts of about 50 percent," said John Hicks, Director of the Tribal Education Center in Warm Springs. "Up until spring we had between eleven to thirteen classes offered online or through microwave delivery. This quarter we have six."

Warm Springs students also will not have writing and math available in the same quarter.

"We're only offering one of each, each quarter," said Hicks of the new cuts.

"We're not turning people away yet, but people have less options," he added.

Forty staff position cuts throughout COCC schools are anticipated by next June. Educational programs and staff changes will more apparent in the next school year.

The COCC Tribal Education Center has been in existence for five years. In the last two years, Hicks estimated, student numbers have doubled from 50 to 100 per quarter. He estimates they serve 600 to 700 students per year in Warm Springs.

The center is part of the Distance Learning Program. The majority of classes are microwave delivered or accessed online. Microwave delivered classes are television broadcasted classes in which students can interact with teachers via microphones. Warm Springs COCC offers one class with an in-class instructor.

Online and microwave delivered classes greatly reduce costs for both the school and students. With this program students do not have to drive to Bend from Warm Springs. COCC doesn't have to fund teachers to travel to Warm Springs.

"It's a lot cheaper this way," said Hicks.

Education center offers new program

COCC at Warm Springs is offering a 58-credit program designed for initial enrollment once per year in the fall. An informational meeting will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 18 at the Tribal Education Center, Training room, 1110 Wasco St.

The Addictions Studies program trains individuals in the knowledge, attitudes and skill needed for employment in the drug and alcohol treatment field as entry-level counselors working under supervision in treatment centers.

It is designed to prepare the student to take the Oregon "Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor 1" Exam upon completion of the coursework and 1000 hours of supervised practicum. The program also provides coursework in the addictions field to other human service and criminal justice workers who help addicted persons and their families.

The course can be completed in four terms if the student has the minimum skills upon entrance and is able to successfully complete 14 to 18 credits per term. However, many students choose to build basic skills and enroll on a part-time basis.

There are at least two addictions courses offered per quarter that require only minimum basic skills. Students can choose to progress with one or two courses per quarter while simultaneously earning the required practicum hours.

These alternative approaches would require more than four quarters to finish. Students will be encouraged to work closely with an advisor to develop an effective course plan.

Reservation Halloween party planned

The annual Warm Springs Great Pun'kin Party and Scarecrow Contest are happening next week.

This family event set for 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Community Center Social Hall.

Families should bring a pumpkin, carving knife, spoon, pencil or marker, and a plastic bag.

For information call Carol Allison at 553-3243.

Photo exhibit solicits entries

The Bend Public Library Art Committee is sponsoring a juried exhibit, "The Art of Photography," opening Nov. 7, and continuing through Feb. 3, 2003.

Entries should be delivered to the Hutchinson Conference Room in the library on Nov. 4, between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

Minimum size is 16 by 20 inches, framed. All work must be securely framed and ready to hang with wire. Work may be for sale, but all sales are directly between the buyer and the photographer. For more information, call Kay Bauman at 389-8392.

Fire regs lifted for machinists

Fire regulations restricting when industrial operators and woodcutters can operate machinery on Central Oregon federal land were lifted last week.

Central Oregon Fire Management Services officials placed the Ochoeco and Deschutes National forests, and the Prineville District of the BLM under Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1 after recent weather lessened fire danger.

Halloween carnival to be held

The annual Warm Springs Halloween Carnival will be held from 5 till 9 p.m. on Halloween night, Thursday, Oct. 31.

Registration forms at the Community Center office until Oct. 28.

Booths may begin setting up in the gym at 3 p.m. on Halloween. Registration forms can be picked up at the community center.

Museum offers basket weaving class

A two-day workshop on Klickitat basket weaving, featuring notable basket weaver Nettie Jackson, is scheduled for next month at The Museum at Warm Springs.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9 and 10, in the museum Education Room. Fee is \$45 per person.

To reserve a spot, call the Education Program at the museum. Ask for Rosalind Sampson, Education Coordinator. The number is 553-3331.

Sharing the vision



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Tribal Public Safety Branch last week marched through Warm Springs, as a means of raising community awareness of the problem of domestic violence. The march began at the Office of Victims of Crime, proceeded down Warm Springs Street, down Hollywood Boulevard, up Kot-Num and over to the IHS Clinic. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Personnel plans for e-application

Warm Springs Reservation personnel is formulating an e-application for the Warm Springs website.

Soon tribal members and the general public will be able to apply for tribal government jobs on-line.

The advantage is applicants can apply for jobs twenty-four hours, seven days a week, said Benny Heath, director of personnel.

Applicants from out-of state can also apply via email

"But we still need to work out the kinks," said Heath, about when it will be available.

Personnel will make an announcement in in *Spilyay* when the e-application is finished.

School: Focus on attendance and testing scores

(Continued from page 1)

will increase during each of the next three school years reaching at least 75 percent by June, 2005.

The Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School have attendance rates that have fallen below 90 percent the last five years.

Attendance at the Warm Springs Elementary School has been lower too, according to Principal Dawn Smith.

In the year 2001-2002 at Warm Springs Elementary, of the 329 enrolled students, the average daily attendance was only 294. The total count of absence was 6,096, with 3,737 tardies.

In the elementary school 2002-2003 school improvement plan, a decrease in absences to 5,469 days would meet the district goal of 90 percent attendance.

Student achievements in reading and math at the elementary school are on an upward trend, but are still below the 75 percent passing benchmark. Warm Springs Elementary plans to increase third grade students' meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in reading and math to 75 percent in the 2002-2003 school year.

Smith thinks the new district goals will help tackle these problems in a more constructive way.

"I think the goals are right on. There are some definite disparities between the ethnic groups that need to be looked at. To address these problems sub-groups need to be looked at."

Each school will use the new statistics to come up with their own plan on how to battle these issues. The district is pursuing grants to help finance these goals. The district approved a donation of \$2,500 for Madras High School and the middle school from H.A.A.B.L.A. The funds are to be used for improvement of school attendance.

Addressing state budget problems

The 509-J district board presented their first estimate for the next fiscal school year. If the Jan. 28 school ballot proposal passes, the district will have \$1.3 million cash on hand, to cover some of the cuts in the next fiscal school year. The desired amount to have on hand is \$1.5 million.

"If we don't," said district superintendent Phil Riley, "then

"I think the goals are right on. There are some definite disparities between the ethnic groups that need to be looked at. To address these problems sub-groups need to be looked at."

**Dawn Smith
Principal, Warm
Springs Elementary**

we will have to borrow. I'd like to see these numbers grow so that doesn't happen."

These figures were also based on the assumption that the district will not have to make a Warm Springs school lease payment in this fiscal year. The Jan. 29 vote will decide whether or not to approve a statewide income tax surcharge for three years.

The district refinanced two bonds that will save taxpayers

significant funds.

Refinancing the middle school construction bond saved the school approximately \$600,000 over an 11 year period.

The PDRS bond was closed and refinanced at 5.6 percent. This action will save the district an impressive \$3.3 million over the next 28 years.

Forty of the 198 districts made this refinancing decision.

Supt. Riley will meet with tribal officials on Oct.30 to discuss the revisions on the pending lease agreement between the 509-J district and the Confederate Tribes for the new Warm Springs school.

Due to state budget shortfalls and statewide recession, plans for the new school have been delayed.

"Every time there is state legislative action, the project is delayed. It is subject to how the economy is doing and the stock markets. Right now we are a victim of the economy," said Julie Quaid, manager Warm Springs Essential Education.

The Confederate Tribes and 509-J district would be obligated to pay \$300,000 per year for the next twenty years on a loan for the new Warm Springs school when construction begins.

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