



Dakota Berman, 11, of Warm Springs, poses by his creation, "Indian Spirit," at The Museum at Warm Springs recently. The museum presented a collection of art created by local youth. Berman said he created "Indian Spirit" in one week.

**Club: doing well**

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The acronym stands for Together Raising Awareness of Indian Life, and the program, funded through Indian Health Services, helps prevent diabetes in children ages 8-10. Smith said a candidate should be hired in the coming weeks.

Even though several staff members, including Smith, are new to the Boys and Girls Club, they are comfortable spending their afternoons with kids.

"There's experience working with kids," Smith said of the staff at the club. "My experience has been working with kids, prenatal to 3 years old, so this is kind of a big jump to school-age. And Carol and Allee both worked at the Early Childhood Education center in the school-age program, and Kosie has, too."

The new staff was brought in place after a previous Boys and Girls Club that had been at the Warm Springs Community Center closed down.

Smith said the club is looking for ways to include more children, including older students who go to school in Madras, at Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School. She said she hoped to use the brand-new gym at Warm Springs Elementary and also have use of the triple-wide modular building next door, so it could have a game room, including a foosball table.

"We're trying to correlate teen nights and teen activities with the other clubs and try to get some teens involved," she said.

She said the club hosted an afternoon teen dance in Warm Springs, and about 60 kids attended.

"I think it would be real important to have a teen program," Smith said. "Right now, there's not much for teens to do unless they think of it themselves or just kind of hang out. I'd like to see something for them, something organized, something positive."

While more space would be nice, more staff to run the activities would be appreciated,

too. It would be helpful, she said, to have more staff dedicated to running a teen program.

Otherwise, she said, "It's hard because we're all kind of stretched with our families and stuff."

She said the club would encourage parents, or anyone, to come and be involved.

In fact, staffing and funding have been the biggest challenges so far.

"For a while, it was just myself, Carol, Allee and Leo two days a week, but he really helps out when he's down here two or three times a week, just in having that male figure because we're all females," Smith said. "And so now with Kosie on board as well, it's been really helpful."

"So I think if we get one more staff person, especially for the summer, when we run a full-day program, that's when it can get kind of hectic, but if we can get more staff in there... I think that's the challenge, being consistent, coming every day and being prepared and really working with the kids."

Smith said as many boys come to the club as girls.

"Our enrollment was 145, and we gained some new members this week," he said. "In between that, the boys outweighed the girls by a slight margin."

The Boys and Girls Club is open each afternoon from when school lets out at Warm Springs Elementary to 6:30 p.m. If a teen program were in place, the club would stay open until 8 p.m. Most kids stay until 5 to 5:30 p.m., when their parents pick them up. A few of the younger kids, along with some of the older kids who have come from one of the Madras schools, stay until the club closes.

Some kids live far from the Warm Springs Agency area, even as distant as Simnasho.

The Boys and Girls Club has use of the library at Warm Springs Elementary for Project Learn (formerly Power Hour), as scheduling allows. This allows the kids to do, and get help for homework, reading and Internet use. Students can earn points based on their participation in

Project Learn.

"It's kind of a way to get them into the books a little," Smith said, adding that mostly girls attend Project Learn. A computer tech program is also available in the Warm Springs Elementary School principal's office.

At the Boys and Girls Club, the kids have a little free time each day, but generally there is structured activity each day.

"Allee could be doing something in art right now, and Leo, he should be starting Smart Kids at 4 o'clock, and so he'll have a group, and Kosie will have a group for kickball or football or whatever he has planned at that time," Smith said. "So just getting that organized, that's kind of the peak we're at."

In fact, Wolfe was outside in the 75 degree weather leading kickball, and Gonzalez was with a group of kids in the playground, watching as some of the kids took pictures with a digital camera that they would download on a computer at the elementary school.

Smith said that the club is still in the process of determining what the kids are most interested in, and what will keep them captivated and coming each day.

"We're still narrowing down our focus on the programs and having a more organized baseline to work from, because it feels fairly new even though we've been here almost a year, learning the job and learning all the different areas," she said. The Boys and Girls Club at Warm Springs is funded through several grants.

"It was through LHA, Local Housing Authority, and I'm not sure where that's at this year," Smith said. "We have an OJP (Office of Justice programs) grant through the state, and some other grants, like Community Action Team."

The Boys and Girls Club does not get funding, however, from the Warm Springs tribal government, she said, "but we're trying to get our foot in the door and get some support from them."

The club also has a \$10 per year membership fee.

**Jim to speak at WSU ceremony**

Wendell Jim, general manager of the Warm Springs tribes' Education Branch, will speak at Washington State University's 109<sup>th</sup> spring commencement in May, the university announced recently.

Jim is a Washington State University graduate in education. As a student, he was president of Ku Ah Mah, the Washington State University American Indian student organization.

In 1981, he received a Native American Student of the Year award from the National Indian Education Association, honoring his leadership in cultural education programs.

An Indian education issues and rights advocate, Jim is helping develop government-to-government collaboration models,

interagency partnerships and legislation pertaining to tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and education.

Representing the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, he is a member of the Washington State University Native American Advisory Board.

One of the board's priority recommendations to the president is to establish a Plateau Center at the university.

The center will foster collaborative partnerships with American Indian communities to further interdisciplinary research and scholarship, curriculum development, access to WSU resources, and expanded educational opportunities for American Indians.

Other speakers at the May 7 commencement, held at the Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum, are Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, and Washington State graduate Christopher Nelson, president of Kemin Industries, a global nutritional ingredient company.

Jim will speak to graduates during the liberal arts ceremony. Gov. Gregoire will speak at the ceremony for business and economics, education and nursing graduates. And Nelson will speak at the ceremony for graduates in the fields of science.

About 2,300 students - 2,100 undergraduates and 200 graduate and professional students - are expected to take part in the three ceremonies.

**Coach: in '64 team won state championship**

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Souers said, "I just taught them good fundamentals."

"Some of the kids I had went on to college. One went down to Mesa Community College," he said. "They come back and they say, 'They teach the same things you teach.' It's basically fundamentals."

One of his Little League teams at Warm Springs won a state championship in 1964. On that team, he said, were former Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Olney Patt, who was his catcher, and Willie Stacona and Dennis

Smith.

But things have changed since then, he said, in that kids don't have the same hunger for fundamentals.

"Basically kids are different, especially the older ones," he said. "It's hard to get kids that are really dedicated, really involved."

Souers, who grew up in Chiloquin and played basketball and baseball on scholarship for Oregon Tech, also lived on the campus in Warm Springs for years before he and his family moved to Madras in 1980. He continued to work in Warm Springs from 1991 to 1996 in construction and as a consultant.

**NOTES:** Souers said his best years as Madras' softball

coach were from 1996 to 1998... the Buffs finished second in the Tri-Valley League in 1996, won the league title in 1997, and tied The Dalles for the league title in 1998... the Buffs lost in the state Class 3A quarterfinals at Illinois Valley in 1997... in 1998, The Dalles had the tiebreaker edge against Madras and had the league's top seed. Madras had to play a league playoff game at home against Gladstone for the Tri-Valley's second seed... though it had beaten Gladstone twice during the regular season, Gladstone won the playoff in 10 innings.

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