

Budget cut closes COCC center

By Selena Boise
Management successor

The Central Oregon Community College's Warm Springs center has been closed recently due to budget cuts that have been happening this year. This makes it harder for students who attended this center for classes.

Spilyay Speaks

For one thing it is hard to drive back and forth to Bend or Redmond every day.

I think the drive itself is tiring, I do the daily commute this term, and that is the hardest part for me.

Just to get to Bend, it is an hour and a half on the road, not to mention the bottle-necked traffic through Redmond.

I try to schedule my classes two days during the week, and it works out better for me that way, because I would only drive two days a week rather than four. I was lucky in the fall term that it was only two days a week. At the time gas prices were almost \$3 a gallon.

Spring term is coming up and the students who did utilize the Warm Springs center for their classes close to home are going to have to make that daily commute to Bend or Redmond for at least 10 weeks. Better now than in the winter when we had that snow coming down.

There are always online courses through COCC, but those seem to fill up fast. I hope to take two of my classes online just to save me the daily drive. That and the two days a week should fall into place spring term, I hope.

I used to do online courses through University of Phoenix but that was not supported by the Education Department and my student loans ran out part-way through and I came back to COCC.

I know of another person who did complete an online education, though she found it hard on her financially because she paid her own tuition. It is worth it if you can afford online school, because the scheduling is around your own daily schedule.

One difference in all this is that Cody Yeager will not be around Warm Springs anymore. I took a couple of her writing classes when I first started taking courses here. They were interesting and fun, and that makes learning easier. So I am sure many of us will miss her presence in the Warm Springs COCC center.

Maybe all this is temporary and everyone will have to make these adjustments for now until it is brought back to Warm Springs. Let's hope so.

Shattered civilization

From out of the ghastly past voices cry out from the Ixla'max! The Wasco Kiksht word Ixla'max means all progenitors from several generations past. *Sapir Wisbram Texts*, 169.

Where will all our children go? All the future children of the Warm Springs are on a crash course into extinction. This is brought on by the tribal enrollment policy. Take a solemn look into about 75 years from now; there will be no one person eligible for enrollment on the Warm Springs. The Kiksht people are already entangled in this warp.

The remaining members of the once thriving Kiksht people stand in fear of what the future brings. They will never hear the roaring waters of the Iskulia's fishing place, the Coyote stories will no longer be heard.

In all probability the future children of the Kiksht will be asking, Did such a civilization ever exist?

The people of the Kiksht Nation once stood tall, and ranged from the Wascopum to

the central part of the now Washington state, but all is no more.

We shared our food and our land and gave with an open heart.

We wanted peace, and to trade, but we were torn apart. Our relations are scattered from reservation to reservation, and these relatives are all being pitted against each other. We are no longer brothers.

All this was because the White man wanted more land. The Whiteman tried to kill and break our old people's spirit. They polluted our waters and the Iganut (salmon) come in abundance no more.

But those of us who still remain have held our heads up high, and the spirits of the elders still flow through us as if they never died.

These Elders will live on forever and the Kiksht Chinookan is being reborn through our language program and by the giving of the Indian Names from those bygone elders.

If you listen close, you can hear the beating of the canoe paddles on the gunwales of the approaching visitors singing the canoe songs of old.

Look, and listen close, coy-

ote will put in the picture, the sound of the mighty Falls of Celilo, and the roaring of the Iskulia's Fishing Place.

However, these visions are never to be, when the sun finally sets in the big water the Maker of all mankind will come with a blast of the trumpet, and all those that have straight eyes without shame will be taken away on the pure white clouds. *Axe!* (Excerpt from my next book titled: *The Shattered Civilization*.)

Easton and Tina invite all to their revival.

George Aguilar Sr.

Eagle Scout

I had the honor and pleasure to attend Mitchell Alley's Eagle Scout ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Culver Christian Church.

Naturally the main reason for the gathering was to recognize and honor Mitchell's achievement. It was quite apparent how much had to occur for a young man to work, sacrifice and ultimately gain the Eagle Scout status. Great job, Mitchell!

I really want you to know that

a very moving and culturally bridging event was when Joe Tuckta performed with and for the group. He made the appearance even though he was in mourning, and you could see the thought and honor exhibited by Mr. Tuckta as he committed the dance in honor of Rudy Clements.

Mr. Joe Tuckta, thank you for taking the time to make Mitchell's achievement so memorable.

I also left with a greater appreciation of how our communities, though different, can come together for the betterment of all, especially the youth.

Respectfully submitted, Jack E. Jones, sheriff.

New post

Friends and colleagues: This is to announce that I have joined the Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) staff, as of March 1, 2006.

In leaving the tribes, I take a wealth of community development experience, an M.B.A. and quite a few good war stories - I mean "learning lessons," which many of you witnessed. My

most memorable experiences were the opportunity to develop the Small Business Transition Plan and hear the voice of the people when we updated the Comprehensive Plan.

I have every confidence that with your help and the leadership of the 23rd Tribal Council, the goals of the people will be realized. I will continue to contribute to our community goals in my new role to help rural communities thrive (not merely survive).

RDI is an Oregon-based non-profit organization. What drew me to RDI is their professionalism, innovation and the high value they place on people, both employees and those they serve. And, their virtual organization will allow me to work from home. Check them out at rdiinc.org. (I'm not on their website yet.)

Yours respectfully, Jolene E. Atencio.

New contact information: Rural Development Initiatives, Regional Coordinator for Central Oregon. Work email address: visit.Rdiinc.org

Personal email address: jeatencio@hotmail.com.

Happy birthday and other wishes...

I want to wish my daughter a very Happy Sweet 16 Birthday. I am proud of you for trying to do your best both at home and in attending school. Thank you for all the good you have done, just keep it up. I love you very much and will always be there for you. Just think of the positive side of life and don't let anything or anyone discourage you in accomplishing your dreams. Love, Dad.

Happy Sweet 16 Birthday to our granddaughter, Clarissa "Claire-Bear" Wolfe. Hope you had a great and safe weekend, but had fun. We are very proud of you trying to do your best. Just keep it up and good things will happen. Love and prayers always, Grandpa and Grandma Tsumpti.

Happy Birthday to my sweetest Nana, Claire. I love you very much and thank you for being there for Dad. Hope you had fun on your special day. Love, your lil' Nana, Rheianna.

Happy Birthday, Niece Claire-Bear! Take care always and keep up the good work. Study hard! Love, Uncle Kanet.

Happy birthday to Lisa Marie Valentine. Birthday girl, I love you very much. I wish you the best, because you deserve the best. Love, M-O-M.

Happy birthday, M-O-M. We love you very very very much. Happy Valentines Day too. Cause it's you day. Love from your sons, Tristan Blackwolf, Tyus Azariah and Jaden Michael.

Eydie Renee Switzler, My feelings for you are unmistakable. My love for you is unconditional. Therefore that must mean were unseparatable. So with that will you be my Valentine. Love you, with hugs and kisses. Victor Smith Jr.

To my four kids - Victor Lee, Felicity Dawn, Watkins J. and Marjorie Smith - a happy (belated) Valentines Day. Love, Dad.

Happy (belated) Valentines to a dear friend, Terrine Rabbie. Your friend, Victor Smith.

Happy (belated) Valentines Day to the Maxine Switzler family. Victor Smith Jr.

Happy 13th Birthday to my beautiful daughter, Lauren Holliday.

I wish the best for your future to come & I do have confidence you will succeed in life. Please do not let anybody tell u different. I Love you today & always forever, Mom.

Happy 13th Birthday, Lauren. Love at first sight. I was there when you entered this world. You were surrounded by those who love you with all of our hearts because you would not wait another second.

You are so beautiful then and more beautiful today. As you enter your teens, I'm praying you will make good decisions. Learn to say "no" at the appropriate times. Be helpful to your elders, respectful to your family and friends. Study hard. Go to college. "Shoot for the stars—they are within reach." I love you, Baby, forever and ever. Love, Grandma Bunnie.

Happy Birthday, Lauren. I love you so much. Love Grandpa Harry.

Happy Birthday, Na Na Lauren, from Janeisha and Tajab Hintsala.

Happy Birthday to our NaNa Lauren. Lots & lots of Love. Alexis, Jade, & Baby girl Tatum.

Happy Birthday day Auntie Am & Uncle Dolan. Love, Lauren, Alexis, Jade & Tatum.

Happy Birthday March 3 to our favorite uncle Avery American Horse. Lots of love from all your favorite nephews, Miaah, Mark III, Donte, Joe and Matt.

Happy birthday to our bro Avery American Horse, with lots of love from your bro's and sisters. Love, AJ, Sonny, MaryAnn, Angie and Lillian.

Great boss was dedicated to helping tribes, friends

By Nat Shaw
Tribal Relations

It has been a little over a two months since my boss left. It has been hard for me, and I'm sure, hard for his family and friends. There is an empty spot in the soul of the branch that he directed for so many years. His wife Anna, his granddaughter Shayla and great-grandson Jake will forever miss his wisdom and gentle touch.

Warren R. was one of a kind. He gave me my Indian name, Howlock Howlock Whosat. He told me it meant holy old man. The problem was he always smiled when he said it, so I always suspected there must be a hidden meaning he wasn't telling me about! He was a great jokester and always fun to be around.

He and I worked together for over 15 years. I grew to respect his many abilities and talents, and above all appreciate his compassion and love for his fellow man. He was first and foremost an Indian. He was proud of his Indianness. But, he always had time for anyone in need, whether it was a down and out tribal

member, a young person seeking career advice, or a college student who wanted to know more about Native Americans.

Over the years I watched him help many, many people in so many ways. There was always someone in his office, sitting on his couch, asking for help with a pressing problem. As his nephew Rudy George told me during the funeral, "That couch was a therapeutic couch for you and me and a lot of other people." Warren R. helped my wife with a career problem when she had nowhere else to turn. He did it with a single telephone call.

Those were the kind of connections he had. He agreed to take part in my daughter's wedding last summer, providing just the right touch to make her wedding very special and memorable for her and her husband. Warren R. was a giver. He always gave of himself and never expected anything in return.

He loved people and had special friendships that lasted a lifetime. They were the weak, the humble, the rich and the powerful. His friendship knew no bounds.

Final years' work

Warren R. was on a mission the last 10 years of his life. He was determined to make a difference for his people. He worked long hours, day and night, weekdays and weekends to see that a casino in the Columbia River Gorge became reality. He spent a great deal of time away from his family as he traveled to Portland, Salem, and other destinations, always working to further gaming goals.

At the time he passed away, he was working feverishly on a tribal member employment plan for Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, of which he was chairman of the board. He was also knee-deep in trying to develop a sustainable tourism plan at Kah-Nee-Ta that centered on tribal members. He called his plan the Circle Plan, and he was determined to make it work.

Rudy also worked diligently in the cultural arena, reading and collecting old books on Native people. He had a thirst for learning the old songs and legends. He held Matilda Mitchell, Nettie Shawaway, Sylvia Wallulatum and Herb

Stwyer in the highest esteem for their help in teaching him about the Washat religion. Rudy was an avid student of American Indian history and military history.

Many times when I was trying to arrange a venue for off-reservation guests on weekends or holidays, Rudy would volunteer his services. He did so without hesitation. He would talk about tribal government, Indian Country issues, tribal history, Indian religion, cultural and traditional issues, whatever the occasion called for. He always left his audience smiling and glad they came to Warm Springs.

As I think about Warren R. Clements, I am struck by how he flew under the radar, so to speak. He was a prominent player in tribal government. He had been in the organization long enough to know how to get things done, what to sweat, and what not to sweat. He had a dream of what he wanted for his tribal people. And had the Creator given him a little more time, he would have achieved it.

As his legacy, I hope the people will not let his dream die.

One of the things that set Warren R. apart from others is the fact that he was always looking out for the 'good of the whole', as he called it. Even if he wasn't personally in favor of a particular endeavor, if it benefited the Tribe, as a whole, that was what he would work toward. Pondering having the casino on the reservation or locating it at Cascade Locks, he would say, "Which would you rather have... 100 percent of \$10 million or 85 percent of \$200 million."

As usual, he used plain common sense when thinking of the people's future.

The Referendum that approved a casino at Kah-Nee-Ta took place December 27, 1995. Warren R. passed away on December 28, 2005. For more than 10 years he provided outstanding leadership and service to the gaming effort of the Tribes. That's what he'll be best remembered for, but he spent a lifetime trying to make a difference for the people of Warm Springs.

Now he is gone. I will miss him, and forever be grateful for the time we worked together.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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