

Polk aims to help at Voc-Rehab

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo



Dixon Polk

Dixon Polk just started a new job at Voc-Rehab, but he is no stranger to the work force in Warm Springs.

Polk began work on January 16 as a Voc-Rehab counselor. He joins fellow new employee Lavina Colwash, who began work as the intake coordinator.

Polk, a member of the Yakama Nation, is a descendant of Warm Springs tribal members. The son of the late Leonard Polk, Jr., and Lucille Alberta Yallup, Polk has five children and three grandchildren enrolled as Warm Springs tribal members.

While living in Warm Springs previously, Polk worked for the Warm Springs Police Department as a corrections officer, police officer, police sergeant, and juvenile investigator.

He also worked for Warm Springs Forest Product Industries, Child Protective Services, and as security supervisor and surveillance observer at Indian

Head Casino.

After looking to move back to Warm Springs, Polk found an opening as a counselor at Voc-Rehab—a position that he said appealed to him because it struck him as interesting.

"I figured my work experience would be able to help me out with it," he said.

Ironically, Polk is able to use the services of Voc-Rehab because of his new position.

He is working with Marcia Soliz to develop a training plan in order for Polk to gain more training applicable to his new line of work.

Furthering his education is something that definitely ap-

peals to Polk.

"I've always wanted to school for criminal justice but that was difficult when I worked for the police department because for one, funds for school, and second, because of the WSPD's long work hours," he said. "Don't get me wrong I loved working for WSPD; helping the people and protecting the Warm Springs Community."

In his other jobs, Polk said, there was a definite difference. For instance, he said, "As a police officer, we were often viewed as the 'bad guy' doing our job."

Now, he explained, "I'm a Voc Rehab Counselor which means I will still be helping the people, but it's just in a different way from before."

Helping people is exactly what he aims to do with his new position, Polk said.

"We're really there for the people, to help," he said.

So far, Polk added, "I'm enjoying it."

"There's still a lot to learn and I'm taking it one day at a time,"

he said. "I just want to be able to contribute and help our Indian people."

Polk encourages people to seek out Voc-Rehab for assistance if they need it.

Every Monday at 3 p.m. the program holds an orientation for interested applicants. Those people then fill out an application in order to determine eligibility.

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Vocational Rehab can help those with medical disabilities, mental disabilities, and addiction problems and with various other issues—the main requirement is that documented proof of a disability be obtained along with proof of tribal membership.

The documentation is even something that Vocational Rehab can help people with in order to determine eligibility. For more information about Vocational Rehab, call 553-4952.

Prevention gathering at Family Resource Center

A gathering on HIV and substance abuse prevention, with a focus on the methamphetamine problem, is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Warm Springs Family Resource Center. Everyone is invited.

The gathering is presented by the Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency, and the tribal Building Effective AIDS Response (BEAR) project.

Presenter for the gathering will be Dr. Robert Carroll, PhD, RN, ACRN.

The agenda is, "Methamphetamines, sexual behavior, and HIV risk among Native peoples: Implications for prevention, education and treatment."

Items for discussion include:

Describing the intoxicating effects of methamphetamine; identifying potential and actual health risks associated with methamphetamine use, including in persons living with HIV; describing how methamphetamine use may contribute to engaging in high risk (for HIV transmission) sexual and drug use; and discussion of the psycho-social issues surrounding methamphetamine use with particular emphasis on Native populations. The local contact person for this gathering is Anita Davis, of the community health education team (CHET), at 553-3510, ext. 112; or e-mail at advais@wstribes.org. Lunch will be provided from noon to 1 p.m.

Happy Valentines Day...

Happy Valentines Day to all my loved ones: Easton, Nel, Perry, Colleen, Jazell, Curtiss, Latasha, Aaron, Joseph, Anthony, Rene, Bambi, Sweetheart, MooShu, Socks, Peanut, Chewy Sr. & Jr. Lotsa Love, Mom.

Happy Valentines Day to all my Chilocco brothers & sisters – hope your day is good. Love, Tina

Happy Valentines Day to our spiritual family & all our Christian brothers & sisters. Merle & Rose Williams Sr., Michael, Nadine & Colleen, Tena & girls, Jr. & Debbie & kids, Marilyn & family, Darrell Enick, Francis & Val, Violet & Mary, John Enick, & the rest of our bros & sisters. Love you guys. Love Tina, Easton & family.

Happy Valentines to Frank Sahme from Mom.

Happy Valentines Day to Veronica Jim from Mom. Love you. Happy Valentines Day to Vanessa Sahme, from Mom. Love you.

Happy Valentines Day to Candice Sahme, love you. Mom.

Happy Valentines Day to Ella Jim, from Alice Jim. Love you. Happy Valentines to Anette Jim and kids, from Auntie Alice.

Happy Valentines Day to Nathan Napier from Alice and grandma Ella.

Happy Valentines to Filley and Nathaniel from grandma Alice. Love you.

Happy Valentines to Krystal. Love you, from Mom.

Special invitation to veterans, service members

Central Oregon military veterans, Oregon National Guard, reserve and active duty service members are invited to Veterans Appreciation Day at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond.

Veterans are eligible to receive the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal. Gov. Kulongoski will present the medals to veterans.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 23 at the Fair and Expo Center. Seating is limited for the reserved luncheon at noon, so please RSVP. For reserva-

tions call 385-3214 or 330-4677 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To be eligible for the award, veterans must have a military ID or DD-214 discharge paper. Send verification papers by Feb. 25 to:

Attn: Rabbine T. Harpell, Deschutes County Veterans Services, 1128 NW Harriman St., Bend, OR 97701.

Warm Springs veterans can contact Kirby Heath, Commander, Elliot Palmer Post No. 4217 VFW; Harvey Jim, Q-M Elliot Palmer Post. 4217 VFW; or Tom Wise, Jefferson County service officer, for more infor-

mation.

Heath can be contacted at 553-0436. Wise can be contacted at a475-5228.

These individuals can be contacted to submit names for eligibility of service medal, and reservations for luncheon table for the veteran and family.

Heath encouraged veterans to send in their discharge paper (DD-214) as soon as possible.

The keynote speaker for the event will be CWO Ron Young, prisoner of war during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There will be a full day of activities for this event, beginning with the opening ceremony

at 9 a.m.

Workshops will be offered throughout the day on topics of sports, health, fishing, state and federal veterans benefits, among other topics.

At noon is the reserved luncheon. At 1:15 p.m. will be the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medals presentation.

At 1:30 p.m. will be the Jubilee Productions musical "Farewell Bend Radio Show."

Any veteran or service member currently serving, Reserve or Active duty is eligible to receive the Honorable Service Medal.

Senators and Congressman to host town hall regarding war

Sen. Gordon Smith, Sen. Ron Wyden, and Rep. Greg Walden will host a town hall meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Redmond Senior Center.

The agenda for the meeting is the war in Iraq, its cost, and how it is impacting the community.

For more information contact Phil Paterno at 548-5131 or Amy Dudley at 543-8417. The Redmond Senior Center is located at 325 NW Dogwood.



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