

Fighting to stay in School

By Ashley Aguilar

Going to school might seem simple. You go to class, do your homework, pass your classes, and get good grades, simple right?

Not for me. School has been difficult for me since elementary school. I was not smart, I tried twice as hard as the other kids just to pull through with B's and C's, and that lasted until the eighth grade.

In high school, like many Native students, I battled with drugs and alcohol, a bad combination for success. My junior year in high school, I pulled myself away from the bad influences and worked myself to exhaustion trying to graduate on time.

In August of 2004 I had been on my own not even for a month when I found out I was pregnant. John and me struggled health wise and financially.

But nothing hurt worse than the medical problems my daughter suffered at birth. While she was at a children's hospital in Kansas City, I was still going to school. After fighting my way through that first year of school, my second year was just as hard financially. We couldn't afford to take care of both our kids so my mom had to raise my son for the rest of the school year.

This school year was difficult: the schoolwork was overwhelming. It seemed like the other students could just fly through their courses while I spent hours doing my homework. What other students could get out of one reading, it took me two. The literature was complicated, so I was constantly asking my instructors for help, always asking questions, and learned the importance of two books: a dictionary and a thesaurus.

Fighting to stay in school has made me a strong woman. I am proud to say I am a parent, a student, and a worker. I graduated this May with my Associate of Arts in Business Administration, along side my Mom, Valerie Switzler, who earned her Associate's in American Indian Studies, and my brother-in-law, Allen Mitchell, who earned his Associate's degree in Liberal Arts.

Huckleberry trip

Tribal members: Mt. Hood Meadows will host a huckleberry gathering trip on Wednesday, Aug. 22. The bus will leave the community center at 8:45 a.m., and return at 5 p.m. The first busload of people will receive free lunch and a chair lift ride.

Letters to the Editor

Smoke free

The Warm Springs Community Health Education Team congratulates Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino for positively impacting the health of casino employees, patrons, and resort visitors.

Effective July 30, the upper floor of the casino was converted to a non-smoking area. This area contains approximately 135 slot machines and video poker machines which will operate smoke-free.

Second-hand smoke is a Class A carcinogen and can lead to asthma attacks, emphysema, bronchitis, headaches, and lung cancer.

To significantly decrease your chances of second-hand smoke exposure, maintain a smoke-free home and car and visit smoke-free businesses, like the top floor of the Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

For more information on second hand smoke or if you're interested in quitting smoking, please contact the Community Health Education Team at the Family Resource Center, 1144 Warm Springs Street or 553-3462 or the Oregon Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669).

Round Robin

I'd like to take this time and opportunity to thank the following coaches for submitting their teams into our First Annual Co-Ed Round Robin:

Radine Spino, Raylene Spino, TJ Foltz, Marcie Stacona, Allee Jackson, Angela Dawalt, Odessa Anderson and James Sam.

Thank you to the following umpires:

William Spino, Ray Anderson and Gladys Graybael. I'd also like to thank the crew from Children's Protective Services in assisting with setting up and cheering on the youngsters.

A big thank you goes out to the children who participated in the event.

It was fun watching our youth get outside and play ball under the hot sun. I had a great time! I'm looking forward in hosting this event next year.

Berni Spino.

A choice

Hello out there to the mothers of our Native children. I come forward today to let all you know how very selfish I've been to think alcohol was worth more than my precious daughter at times. How we know that we have very loving children

that are hurting because we choose to hold a can or bottle of beer instead of our babies, the beauty of life that's brought to our reservation. Don't get me wrong, I love my daughter with all my heart and take care of her 24/7 up until July 21, 2007, the day I was detoxed and she was placed in CPS's custody, ever since then she's been there and I've been here in jail. Thinking hard about what I really want to be, a drunk or a mother? It shouldn't be hard to choose for any of us. If you choose to be a drunk at least support your own habit and if you choose to be a mother then be a very good one because you can't be both, it just doesn't work that way. Much love and respect. Keep you head up. **Machell Anne Tailfeathers.**

Fire fighters

After spending nearly three weeks working alongside your local wildland fire fighters, we want to share with everyone how fortunate we felt to work in your community. It is hard to be away from home for so long, but that separation was made easier by the warmth of everyone we interacted with.

Since the day we arrived, the Warm Springs fire managers, Natural Resource professionals, and fire fighters have been a pleasure to work with. Their insights, experience, and support were a key part of our planning and strategies. In particular, Fire Management officer Trey Leonard and his team provided crucial input daily about the history of fire behavior here and the importance of the timber resource to the tribes' economy. Natural Resources manager Bobby Brunoe and his staff shared an open dialogue with us about the cultural and natural resource values at risk. They became a part of our team, as we hope we became part of theirs.

In addition to the fire-specific interactions we had, the community was always welcoming and friendly. From the tribal members who worked in camp, to the elders we shared news about the fire with, to the school children who toured our incident base camp at the rodeo grounds, we felt connected to this special place. Our shared interest in containing the fires and keeping everyone safe was made deeper by the cooperative spirit as we helped each other achieve

our goals.

Many of us have developed lasting ties here that will continue into the future.

We thank you for the privilege of working here, and wish you the best for the rest of the summer and beyond.

Sincerely,

Gary Jennings and Bob Johnson, incident commanders.

A thank you

Thanks to all in our time of loss of our loved one. We just wanted to express our gratitude to each and every person who was there by our family's side in the time of loss of our loved one.

We are not going to specify specific names as there are too many to name, but you know who you all are.

We truly do appreciate all the help each person contributed from the time of the incident clear up until the end of the funeral procession and the still ongoing never ending giving of comfort and love to us in our time of great need of prayer.

Sconawah - Blackwolf - Mitchell families.

Support for kids

We would like to thank the people and the companies for their thinking of the kids with their donations. And have a good life with many more to you. Keep up the thinking of others, again thank you Rodney Smith Trucking, White Horse Adventures, Les Schwab Tire Center, Warm Springs Market, Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery employees, Jacob Frank St., Dana and Janice Hardan, Chris Buller, Gladys Graybael, Lonn and Loretta Swanson, Harry Hisatake III, Jimmy Tohet Jr., the Feed Store in Madras, Kirstin Hisake, Carlee Swanson, Kelsey Swanson and Tony for the HeHe Endurance Race for kids. Thank you to the kids who took part too. **Richard Tohet.**

Prize waiting

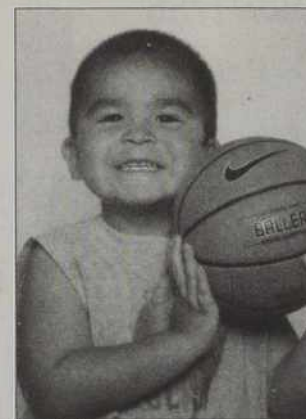
The tribal member estate planning program is hoping to contact Idelia Cloud, who won a prize in the coloring contest held during Pi-Ume-Sha. The prize is a Super Soaker. Idelia can pick up the prize at the Family Resource Center. Or call 553-2409.

Happy birthday and other wishes...



Ralph G. Aguilar Sr., happy birthday July 28. Love you, wife Daisy.

Look who turns half-a-cent on the 15th of this month. Born in 1957. Happy birthday to you Bro. From your loving sisters and brother and Chuck.



Happy first birthday to our son Kenyon Hopi Gabriel Aguilar. We loved you since the moment you popped out! Love, your mom Amanda Tom and father Joseph Aguilar. Born August 17, 2007.

Happy 20th birthday, Raylene Alana on August 19. Love you much, Mom-Lovie and kids on West Spur.

Happy birthday Rae Rae, we love you lots, from your bros and sistas, Dena and Daisy.

Happy birthday Raylene Ike, love you with all my heart, your older sister Emily and Mike Ponyah from Tuba City, Ariz.

Happy birthday, Raylene, love you baby girl, from your Young Available Kuthlas, Daisy, MaryAnn, Millie and Hilda.

Happy birthday Rae Rae, we are all thinking of you baby girl. Love, all your Aunties and Uncles: Fred and Pat, Luke and Debbie, Leona and boys, Lena and James, Ty and Venus.

Happy 20th birthday to our babygirl Raylene. Love, you auntie Agnes and Kendrick Arthur.

Happy birthday "20" to my little princess Raylene. Love, your Dad and Bonnie.

Happy birthday Raylene from all your cousins: Jon, Mar, Jules, Lara, Dawn, Felicia, Natasha Mae, James, Freddie, Nelson, Jeneva, Tarver and Corbin.

Caleb Paul Jim, happy birthday August 12. Thinking of you, miss you, love you, no matter what. Clarice and Raelynn.

Happy 3rd birthday, Jayson Joe. Have fun today. We love you very much. Aunt Peggy, Georgie and Nicki.

Jayson Joe (my little NBA Player), Happy birthday to the Awesomest, Coolest, Handsomest Grandson in the World. I love you with all my heart. Grandma Dorothy and Teve.

Happy 3rd birthday Jayson Joe, you're the best son in the world. I miss and love you so much... Love, Dad.

Happy birthday Jayson, U number #1. Uncle Anthony and Linda Lou.

Happy 3rd birthday Jayson. We all wish you a fun day and remember, we love you very much. Grandpa Jack, Traci, Tina, Mavis and the whole family here in Montana.

Happy birthday Jaysha. I miss and love you very much. My prayers are with you every day. Love, Mom (Sissy ya-ya) and Steve.

Happy birthday, Dad. Love you Lots. Jayson Joe.

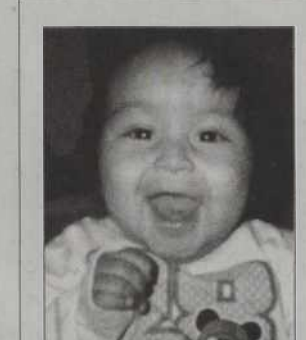
Happy 25th birthday, Jess. Have fun! Uncle Anthony.

Happy birthday Jack Jr. Have fun and be safe, see you soon. Dad and all of us here in Montana.

Happy birthday Jesse. Thinking of you. Peggy, Georgie and Nicki.

Happy birthday to Lorien Stacona on August 10! William, Berni and Alexxis Spino.

Happy birthday to Perry-winkle on August 10! Sorry we were unable to make it to your birthday party. But we send lots of love towards your way! Have a special day! Love William, Berni and Alexxis Spino.



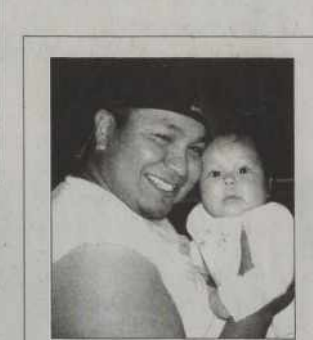
Happy 4th birthday to Clarence Vernon Leroy Sam on August 28, 2007. Love, Mom and Dad, Roy Spino and Elsie Sam.

Happy early birthday to Merlin Tom! We love you! Have a fantastic day! Love William, Berni & Alexxis Spino.

Happy 3rd Anniversary to William & Berni Spino! We love you! Greg, Allee, Celestine, Mary, Grandma, Grandpa, Allen Jr. and Sundown.

Happy 6 months Alexxis! We love you! Grandma Gina, Grandpa Tonto, Greg, Allee, Celestine, Mary, Allen Jr. and Sundown.

Happy 6 months Sweetie Girl! We love you! Grandma Nona, Grandpa Roger, Uncles Charles & Roger Stuyer!



Happy 6 months on August 10, Alexxis-Keira Spino! You are a huge joy in our lives. We're looking forward to spending many birthdays and holidays with you. Tons of kisses and hugs from Mommy and Daddy, William and Berni Spino.

With a lot of love to my wife, Carolyn Ribeiro, 34 years of marriage. You are a blessing from the Lord. Pastor Rick Ribeiro.

Happy birthday to my beautiful auntie Gloria Martinez. Love, Jeanette Thompson and the little short man, Jadden.

Happy birthday on August 18 to my sister Gloria Martinez. Love, Ginni.

Happy birthday to my auntie Gloria. We love you. Love, Mickey and the boys.

Happy birthday to Agustine Pedraza. Love and miss you. Your sis, Jeanette Thompson.

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo.

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Management Successor: Selena T. Boise
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