

# Miss Warm Springs reflects on her year

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Cyrille Mitchell will end her reign as Miss Warm Springs this Friday when a new young woman is crowned at the annual pageant.

Mitchell works as a tribal youth coordinator and also served as Miss Warm Springs 2008. As a result of those two duties, Mitchell said, she has been a busy woman for the past year.

During her year as Miss Warm Springs, Mitchell strived to attend most local events—particularly those involving youth or Tribal elders.

“I learned a lot of our culture and a lot of our heritage this year from Tribal elders,” Mitchell said.

Often when she attended events Mitchell was asked to speak or sing traditional songs.

As a result, Mitchell said, “I became a better public speaker. I learned how to think of a speech no the drop of a dime.”

Before her year as Miss Warm Springs, Mitchell said, “I knew a handful of our culture and heritage. I grew up in the longhouse.”

As Miss Warm Springs, Mitchell said, she had the chance to learn even more about her culture—including a variety of traditional songs. Because she was often called upon to sing, Mitchell said, “I learned different ones so I wouldn’t be singing the same one everywhere I go.”

Her favorite event was attending the graduation ceremonies at Early Childhood Education for Head Start students.

Because her job is based around the youth, Mitchell said, she particularly enjoyed those events.

Mitchell added, “I went and all the little kids were happy to see me. They got excited. It was just a good feeling.”



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

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Mitchell said another memorable event involved attending the honor dinner hosted by the Museum at Warm Springs. During the dinner Mitchell had the opportunity to meet author Sherman Alexie, she said. “It was pretty awesome because I got to meet my favorite author, and got to sit at the same table and visit with him

all night,” Mitchell said. “That was a really big highlight.”

During her visit to the annual Eagle Watch, Mitchell said, she saw something else that will be unforgettable.

“In the middle of our performance, two eagles came out and circled us,” Mitchell said. “It was pretty neat.”

Though she strived to attend local events, Mitchell also had a chance to travel to various events throughout the year.

She travelled to Phoenix, Ariz., for the National Congress of American Indians, where she learned about politics in Indian Country as well as gaming issues.

Mitchell also competed in the Miss Indian World pageant at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico—and placed in the top ten contestants.

The pageant featured 33 contestants from all over Indian Country, Mitchell said. To compete she had to write an essay, complete an interview with three questions, participate in a traditional talent show and a dance competition, and speak publically at an event on “powwow alley.”

During that part of the event, Mitchell said, “It was open to the public; you drew a question out

of a hat and had to answer it in one minute.”

Mitchell travelled to Fort Hall for the Shoshone Festival Days as well as to Klamath Falls for the Klamath Treaty Days. Her final travelling event took her to Grande Ronde for a restoration celebration.

As for future young women, Mitchell said, she encourages them to compete for the title of Miss Warm Springs. In addition to teaching women about their culture and heritage, she said, there are many additional benefits.

“It’ll look good on your resume,” Mitchell said. “It shows that you do public speaking; you know your culture and heritage.”

Mitchell said she also gained important leadership experience that she knows will be useful with her area of employment.

Mitchell said she only experienced one area of disappointment during her reign: when she attended graduation ceremonies for Head Start, eighth grade and high school students, only a total of seven kids wore traditional regalia.

That’s something that Mitchell hopes to see change. In her opinion, “They should be happy for who they are—just be happy about who they are and where they come from.”

For the future, Mitchell plans to continue working as a tribal youth coordinator. She also plans to teach students who are involved in the tribal youth program more about the tribes’ history.

“It’s getting lost,” Mitchell explained. “I noticed that as I was Miss Warm Springs, and doing talks at different events, that a lot of kids didn’t know our culture, our songs, our dances—all the way down to how to set up a table at the longhouse.”

As she finishes her year, Mitchell said, “I just want to thank everybody out there who supported me through this whole year.”

As for her past year, Mitchell won’t soon forget her experiences.

“It’s a once in a lifetime experience that only you can predict what’s going to happen,” Mitchell said. The next Miss Warm Springs will be crowned at the pageant on Jan. 30.

## Free class on personal finances

A free class, Financial Skills for Families, is being offered in Warm Springs.

To register call the Credit enterprise, 553-3201.

The first of six weekly class sessions will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3 in the Credit enterprise classroom.

Topics will include:  
How to get in and out of debt without hurting too much;

Your Credit report, what it means and how to fix it;

Family budgeting and spending plans, don’t leave home without one;

Banking accounts, checking and savings;

Banking at Warm Springs; Your personal economy and the larger picture;

Raising kids to be financially savvy;

Doing to be doing well.

All books and materials are supplied at no cost to participants.

The classes are co-sponsored by the Warm Springs Credit Enterprise, Warm Springs Housing, and Warm Springs Community Action Team.

This class will satisfy one of the requirements for the Community Action Team new Individual Development Account Program.

## Two make COCC Dean’s List

Leslie A. Cochran-Davis and Reina Lynn Estimo of Warm Springs made the 2008 fall term Dean’s List at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.

The COCC Dean’s List is based on enrollment in 12 or more credit hours and a grade-point average of 3.60 or above.

## Sewing for feast, memorials

Eileen Spoino and Adeline Miller will provide instruction on sewing for feasts and memorials.

These workshops will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 7 p.m. in the basement Cultural Room of the Education Building.

Classes are scheduled for Jan. 29, and Feb. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26.

All are welcome to attend. Items for sewing include wing dresses, underdresses, necklaces, purses and bags, and baskets.

Please bring your own materials; or call to inquire about available materials. For information call 553-1543 or 553-3424.

## Pool tourney fundraiser Feb. 7

There will be a fundraising pool tournament and raffle at the Rialto Tavern on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Sign-up at 1 p.m. Games start at 3 p.m.

This a fundraiser for a kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade kids basketball tournament.

The pool tournament format is one-man and one-woman

doubles, \$15 a stick, with \$5 per stick going to the kids tournament.

There will be a \$200, added prize. Pays first through fourth place.

There will also be raffle tickets, \$1 each.

For early signup or more information, call Reva 325-3532.

### Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow

Simnasho, Oregon  
February 13, 14, 15, 2009

**Friday:** 5:30 p.m. (sharp) New and Re-joiners  
7:30 p.m. Grand Entry  
**Saturday:** 1:00 p.m. Grand Entry  
Supper Break  
No Evening Grand Entry  
**Sunday:** 1:30 p.m. Grand Entry

#### Contest in all categories

**Specials:**

**Drum Contest:** Contact Mackie Begay at 541-553-9230  
**Junior Girls Open Contest (8-12) for Out Going Princess:**  
Contact Joy Ramirez at 541-777-9220  
**One-Man Hand Drum Contest:** Contact Kyle Queahpama at 541-553-6908  
**Open Chicken Dance/Round Bustle Contest (TBA?):** Contact Mackie Begay at 541-553-9230  
**Vendor Information:** Contact Sandra Greene-Sampson at 541-553-6619

Lodging Ka-Nee-Ta Resort and Casino; 1-800-554-4SUN, mention you are coming to Lincoln’s Powwow for special rate, limited rooms.

### 2008 Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow Queen

To honor our daughter  
Soraya Y. Mendez “Yaxla”

Outgoing special. For 8-12 year old girls, Open Dance (fancy, jingle, traditional). **Saturday evening, February 14, 2009.**  
First place winner: Shell dress and money.  
Second place winner: Beaded bag and money.  
Third place winner: Beaded hair ties, medallion

and money.  
All dancers will receive a consolation prize.  
We hope to see you at the 2009 Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow in Simnasho.  
For more information or questions, please contact Joy Ramirez at (541) 777-9220 or email at: joy\_joseramirez@yahoo.com.

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### Public Announcement – Availability of Funds

The Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee in Warm Springs announces the opportunity for eligible transportation providers to apply for an **Older Adults and People with Disabilities Grant.**

Funds are allocated to the Warm Springs STF Advisory Committee by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Grant applications are for the 2009-2011 Biennium. Projects providing transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities

are eligible for grant funding. Applications are available at the Public Transit Division Web site: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/) The application packet includes instructions and eligibility guidelines. Applications submitted for projects in Warm Springs

must be submitted to the STF Advisory Committee, not later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 30. Contact Lonny Macy at 553-3270 or [LMacy@wstribes.org](mailto:LMacy@wstribes.org) for more information.