

Howlak Tichum

~ Awawanita ~

Mavis Mayanne Kirk, October 16, 1978 - December 16, 2009

Awawanita went on her journey into the Spirit world on December 16, 2009.

She was born to Mildred Quaempts of Pendleton and Oliver Kirk Jr. of Warm Springs October 13, 1978.

May leaves behind her fiancé Leander Williams Jr. and her two precious children, Sunhawk Miliana Hope and Leander Sundance Williams III; her mother Mildred and father Oliver; grandparents Lolita Greeley of Warm Springs, and Oliver Kirk Sr. of Ganado, Ariz, and Donald Joe of Ardmore, Okla.; her siblings Merle, Annie, Derek and Cecelia; her treasured nieces and nephew Keyyana, Marcella and Kaiwin; and all family of Warm Springs, Umatilla,



Yakima and Arizona and many friends.

She was preceded in death by Uncle Gabriel Selam, Uncle Ronnie Morning Owl and Great-Grandmother Annie Joe

of Umatilla.

May lived most of her life in Warm Springs and in Pendleton.

She enjoyed meeting new people in the Food Service profession at the Deschutes and Kah-Nee-Ta, and working with the elders at the Warm Springs Senior Program.

Throughout May's lifetime, she enjoyed spending time with family and friends, softball, art, beading, poetry, cooking, traveling, and attending traditional and social events and motherhood.

She has many friends and relatives who will miss her, and we all know we will meet her again as long as we keep the creator in our hearts.

2009 Year in Review

November

Transit expansion

Warm Springs Transit, which has been in operation now for the past four years, will soon undergo major changes, according to Dave Conroy, acting director of tribal Social Services.

"We're looking at a major expansion of services, both in terms of hours of operation and areas which the transit will cover," said Conroy. "We've been working diligently with the Planning Department, our driver Evans Spino, and with the Vocational Rehab Program to make these changes happen."

Corridor agreement

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Bonneville Power Administration have negotiated a new agreement allowing BPA the

continued use of an existing transmission line corridor on the reservation.

BPA will pay the tribes \$17 million for the use of the corridor for the next 50 years.

General Council

The tribes held general council meetings this month in Warm Springs and Simnasho to gather input from tribal members before the 2010 budget is finalized.

The proposed budget includes a projected use of the "rainy day" fund of \$3,612,297, resulting in a balanced posted budget.

December

Fish passage

The first fish were captured on December 1 at the new wa-

ter intake system at the Round Butte dam on the Deschutes River.

"This is the beginning of a new era," said Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

The new era will see migrating fish spawning above the Round Butte dams for the first time in decades.

Trust case settlement

A \$3.4 billion proposed settlement agreement was announced in the long-running class action lawsuit, *Cobell v. Salazar*, which claims that the federal government mismanaged individual Indians' trust accounts.

Possibly as many as 2,000 members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs may qualify to participate in the settlement, and may receive some compensation.

Civil legal help for victims continues

By Mark Matthews
Victims of Crime Services

Civil legal assistance for on-reservation victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking will continue through August 2010 with the extension of a grant.

The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grant makes available civil legal services and representation in tribal legal matters to eligible victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking arising as a consequence of their abuse or violence.

The U.S. Department of Justice funds the Legal Assistance for Victims grant through its Violence Against Women Office. This is a two-year grant.

Gwen Leonard is the civil legal advocate employed by the grant, and her office is located in the Victims of Crime Services (VOCS) building.

Leonard appears in court with eligible clients who need assistance with restraining orders, divorces, modifications of family and civil orders, guardianships and other civil legal matters arising from a situation involving violence or stalking.

Restraining order cases are the most frequent type of case

where Leonard appears in tribal court as a spokesperson.

Leonard also observes at arraignment and other tribal court hearings those person crime cases relating to VOCS and LAV subject matter.

I am the LAV grant supervising attorney, and I assist Leonard with supervision, advice, and will substitute for Leonard when she cannot appear in court.

She is a great spokesperson and legal advocate for her clients. She understands the issues that her clients face because of her background as a victims advocate supervisor, and as a grandmother and community member.

Leonard has attended several trainings, including two trainings for legal advocates taught by the National Institute of Trial Attorneys, and seminar taught by the Southwest Center for Law and Policy.

Potential clients who need civil legal assistance from the LAV program must first have a confidential intake by a VOCS staff member.

If the potential client has legal problems due to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, then that person will be referred to Leonard.

Leonard will then determine if the potential client is eligible for LAV legal services. According to Office on Violence Against Women guidelines LAV legal services cannot be provided to those individuals who need legal representation for criminal defense or if their children are taken into protective custody. Also, the LAV advocate cannot assist clients in off-reservation courts.

Leonard will make a referral to either Oregon Legal Services in Bend, tribal Legal Aid, or off-reservation attorneys for those individuals who are not eligible for the Warm Springs LAV civil legal assistance services.

VOCS advocate supervisor Viola Govenor will assign a victim advocate to work with the client and Leonard with non-legal services and assistance.

The victim advocate may assist the client with emotional support, information or referral, or personal advocacy.

Referrals to the VOCS Evening Women's Support Group, Warm Springs Community Counseling and other public service agencies are common.

Call 553-2293 during office hours if you need civil legal assistance resulting from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

Officials test disaster plan readiness

Tribal public safety officials, with officials from other agencies, conducted a successful "table top" disaster plan exercise earlier this month.

The exercise looked at the consequences of a failure at the dam holding back water at the Happy Valley Reservoir near Simnasho.

The dam was built in the 1930s, and would pose the threat of failing in the event of an event like and earthquake or flood, said Dan Martinez, Warm Springs Fire and Safety chief.

The dam itself is under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but the agencies work together on disaster preparedness, said

Martinez.

Along with Fire and Safety and the BIA, the tribal Natural Resources Branch, Kah-Nee-Ta and the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery were also represented at the table-top exercise, held at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The Happy Valley reservoir and dam, about two miles from Simnasho, holds a fairly large volume of water, which would threaten some structures downstream, said Martinez.

"Six homes are in its path downstream, as it goes to the Warm Springs River," he said. Kah-Nee-Ta would also be in the path as the water flows to the Deschutes.

There is a low chance for loss of life as a result of the dam being breached, but there could

be some property loss, said Martinez.

The exercise at Kah-Nee-Ta involved a review of the tribal disaster mitigation plan, as it would be applied to a failure of the dam at Happy Valley, said Juanita Majel, Fire and Safety fire fighter and emergency medical technician.

This part of the plan was about 90 percent on target, with some needed minor changes—a road name adjustment, for instance—brought to light by the exercise, said Majel. The reservoir, she said, is roughly 336 acres in size, and used mainly to teach youngsters to fish, and also is still used for some irrigation.

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