

## Dropping Out Letters to the Editor

By Duran Bobb

Last year, the dropout rate across Oregon was at 3.3 percent, or 5,782 students out of 178,104. That figure was down .1 percent from the previous year.

At Madras High, the class size was 237 students for 2011. Two students received special ed diplomas. Thirty-one students received their fifth-year diplomas. Fifty-seven percent of all students graduated on time. And 69 students dropped out.

Gov. Kitzhaber called the dropout rate unacceptable. "We must all work to deliver better results for Oregon students."

Lana Leonard, 509-J school district liaison, said, "When my boys graduated, we looked at their grade school class pictures and they pointed out quite a few students that didn't make it through school."

Mary Sando-Emhoolah comments, "There can be a positive follow up for some that drop out. I know a few tribal members who have gone on to earn their GEDs, have finished college and live productive lives."

Liz Smith agreed. "As far as getting a job or getting into college, having a GED has never held me back."

Martha Stewart attended Madras High for a few months before being expelled. From there, she went to boarding school and is today successful in her field of work. "My mom would literally threaten to send me back to Madras if I didn't straighten up," Martha recalls.

"I dropped out and went on to community college," Patu Pitt said. "I was camping by myself when I got a call telling me I had graduated. Now, I'm really good at reading academic policies and requirements."

"I dropped out of high school and got my GED," Kevin Howtopat said. "I went on to become educated in optical technology. I've been working in this field for thirty years now."

A lot of it has to do with parental support, Lana said. "I told my boys that I would love to see them at least graduate from high school. If they went to college, that would be great!"

(See page 12 for more on this year's statistics.)

*Spilyay Speaks*

### Water rights

Water, the essence of tradition and life! I made Warm Springs' attaining local economic growth a personal priority. How many times has the leadership of this reservation made these promises to the people with only minimal or no results. Only when elected representatives eliminate their personal ignorance of our Reserved Treaty Rights, the dream of local economic development will always remain a dream, and our children will suffer the dire consequences of such poor leadership. Alcohol and drugs are only a symptom of a society and people that have no hope of the future. Our leaders of the past two decades must make a personal commitment to actually bring economic development to the people and start to implement our Senior Water Rights to restore the vision of hope that enabled many of them to attain the economic stability their leaders provided to them.

I will state once again that before any significant economic development can materialize, leaders must be unafraid to establish a list of priorities and time-lines of accomplishment to restore a bright future to our children and grandchildren. I have learned that without infrastructure there cannot be significant economic development. That is why we must be unafraid to exercise our Senior Water Rights to attain that economic independence.

It is a well known fact that Oregon has been very negligent in its administration and oversight of the Deschutes Watershed. It has and continues to issue "Junior Water Rights," violating federal Indian law, and Western water law. It cannot effectively administer its own rules and regulations, let alone verify actual water diversions it has already approved. That is why the McCarren Act is so vital to the tribe.

The McCarren Act has set legal precedence on when the federal government will exert its trust responsibility to tribes. The case I believe originated out of California and pertains to the state's negligence of the Senior Water Rights of federally recognized tribes. California continued to ignore the Reserved Rights of treaties, so the federal government intervened on behalf of the Native Americans and the

violations of a tribe's "Senior Water Right." Oregon's neglect and disregard of our Senior Water Right mirrors that of the state negligence of California, I believe.

One does not have to possess a Masters Degree in Environmental Science to comprehend that Oregon cannot neglect the legitimacy of our Senior Water Rights. Our ancestors were quite visionary when they negotiated our treaty. They knew over a century ago how important our Reserved Right to water would become, and how important it would be for our economic independence!

That is why I continually question the sincerity of the Water Quantification Agreement we signed with Oregon. If tribal leaders actually contemplated the malfeasance of this document we could actually utilize this failure of the state to negotiate in good faith as required by federal Indian law to attain the required infrastructure needed for our economic stability and growth.

The question that I would ask of the Oregon Department of Water Resources is this, "Why is it that the only segment of the Deschutes River that experiences low stream flow borders our land?" Is it possible that the state's contention is that we have adequate water supplies within our reservation, that there is no need for them to acknowledge our Senior Water Rights in the Deschutes Basin!

Again I ask, When will Water Quality Standards be resolved and met by Oregon Department of Water Resources? The current language in the Water Quantification Agreement states that water quality standards will be resolved at a later time. Can our Water Board tell tribal members why they continue to allow Oregon to ignore the legitimate fact that we are entitled to the same water quality as Junior Water Rights.

Another fact that I must share with our leaders, One doesn't need a degree in federal Indian law to question perceived violations of our "unique sovereign status." An elected representative only needs to possess the desire to serve the people as best he or she can. If that requires a little reading, picking up of a dictionary, then so be it, after all my "oral tradition" advised me to educate myself so that our children would not have to experience hardship created by our failure to "adapt to the environment." Isn't that also one of nature's primary laws of survival? Are we not entitled to enjoy the same amenities of Junior Water Rights holders?

Thank you.  
Randy Smith.

### Parenting

Parents who abuse alcohol in front of their children are considered neglectful and abusive, and this may lead to troubles for the children of drinkers as they grow. Just as you inoculate your kids against illnesses like the measles, you can help immunize them against drug use by giving them the facts before they are in a risky situation.

When kids don't feel comfortable talking to parents, they are likely to seek answers elsewhere, even if their sources are unreliable. Kids who aren't properly informed are at greater risk of engaging in unsafe behaviors and experimenting with alcohol and drugs. Parents who are educated about the effects of drug use and learn the facts can help correct any misconceptions children may have.

Make talking about drugs a part of your general health and safety conversations with your child or children. Parents are role models for their children, so your views on alcohol and drugs can strongly influence the views of your child. It is shown that parents who drink alcohol influence the way their children view drinking as adolescents.

Emotional problems from seeing parents drink may include guilt, anxiety, embarrassment, the inability to have close relationships, anger and depression. This can cause delinquent behavior, and the abuse of drugs and alcohol later in the child's life. Alcohol abuse can be hereditary, but it can also be related to environmental factors.

Childhood is a time of learning and discovery, so it's important to encourage kids to ask questions, even ones that might be hard to answer.

As much as parents may not like to think about it, the truth is that many kids and teens try alcohol and drugs. Lack of communication is likely to lead to adolescents who drink or indulge in heavy drinking.

As a parent who is a repeat offender of the above stated, I am not proud of the my actions, and have great remorse for what I have shown and put my children through. I can only hope that I can be a better role model for my children from now on.

Thank you for your time!  
Sheylene Greene-Boise

### Ranger district

A sincere thank you to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for making our recent event such a success.

The Detroit Ranger District recently hosted the Fourth Bi-Annual American Indian Student Education Enhancement Day. The ranger station hosted the event to acknowledge the shared responsibilities of the tribes and agency in promoting a land ethic for today's youth.

The recent gathering was designed to inspire tribal youth to think about opportunities to pursue careers in natural resource management.

The event was attended by approximately 40 high school and Job Corps students from Chemawa Indian School, the Siletz Valley Early College Academy, Willamina High School, Connections Academy, Angell Job Corps, and Timberlake Job Corps. Tribal youth leaders and elders also participated in the event.

An invocation was provided by Bud Lane, Tribal Council Vice-Chairman for the Confederated Tribes of

Siletz Indians. Bud then spoke to the students, offering a tribal perspective on the role that Native peoples play in living in balance with the natural world. He emphasized the tribes' interests in encouraging American Indian youth to pursue careers that allow them to care for the land in the traditions of their elders.

Students rotated between five career stations, which included natural resources, archaeology and cultural resources, recreation and wilderness management, forestry, and fire management.

Presenters described the roles and responsibilities related to their professions and highlighted the various types of employment opportunities available with the agency and tribal governments, including seasonal and permanent positions, co-op programs, internships, and apprenticeships.

Students had a chance to sit inside the cab of a fire engine, use forest measurement equipment, and learn about traditional materials used in making baskets, clothing and tools.

Participants later enjoyed a lunch sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Through everyone's efforts, it is hoped that seeds of appreciation for natural resources and the continuation of traditional practices used in caring for the land were planted with the students, and that those seeds will continue to grow as they pursue various career paths.

The Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District extends special thanks to

the tribes for their help with this event.

Jennifer Velez, Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

### Contest matter

I paid a \$25 fee to participate in Jefferson County's 2012 "Movin' Mountain Fitness Challenge." I am happy to say I lost a total of 40.2 pounds, 16.80 inches total off my waist and hips. Despite being "The Biggest Loser" I was awarded third place. Carolyn Harvey decided to award first place to a lady, based on the previous 2011 statistics. If that were the case, they should have included last year's stats in their rule pamphlet.

I worked real hard by self discipline and motivation since Jan. 13. I had the support from my boss, co-workers at the W.S. Police Department, Dr. Creelman, Warm Springs Wellness Coordinator, community members of our tribe. And most of all, my family.

On a positive note, I feel a lot healthier. It would be deceiving if I didn't say I felt somewhat cheated. My youngest daughter Daisy, who signed up for the challenge with me as an individual for support was very upset after the banquet, insisting we contest the program. This is the first time I completed the entire program, because I signed up as an individual. The previous years I signed up with a team, one by one our team members dropped out. I will continue my journey on becoming physically fit for myself, family, kids. Thank you!

Lovie Ike - Biggest Loser, Warm Springs

### Wishes...

I would like to send this out to my wife Perthina, who I love very much. And also to my mother-in-law Rhoda and my sisters-in-law. Happy Mother's Day to you all.

Have a wonderful day. I wish you the best! From Juan aka Big-e.

Happy Sixteenth Birthday, Sydney. We love you a lot! Always. Love, Grandma Greta, Grandpa Ross, Auntie Jessie and your uncles and cousins.

### Moving Mountains

The winners of the 2012 Moving Mountains Challenge were announced at a luncheon held last Saturday at Mexico City Restaurant for all participants.

For all the participants that completed the challenge by having their final measurements done: A total of 1,106 pounds were lost, 271.75 inches were lost on the waist, and 209.88 inches were lost on the hips. Moving Mountains is a countywide challenge and a variety of activities and measurements were available in Warm Springs and Madras throughout the 16 weeks.

Local Warm Springs participants finished in the top three in the Team, Men's and Women's categories.

Tana Frank with her Team Hardcore came in third place in the Women's team category losing a total of 222 pounds, 10 inches on the waist and 6 inches on the hips.

Jason Smith placed sec-



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay  
Second place for Jason Smith.

ond in the Men's category losing a total of 33.6 pounds, 9.5 in. on waist, and 6.75 inches on hips for a 45.2 percent overall change.

LaVena Ike placed third in the Women's category, losing a total of 40.2 pounds, 8.25 inches on waist, and 8.25 inches on waist for a 41.4 percent overall change. Since the winners are decided by the overall percentage change, and not most pound or inches lost, the organizers created a most weight lost bonus of \$100, which Ike also won.

Spilyay Tymoo  
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan

Reporter: Duran Bobb

Advertising Director: Yvonne Iverson

Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:  
Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210  
Advertising: 541-553-2307 or 541-325-1089

E-Mail: dave.mcmecan@wstribes.org.  
Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$15.00.