

Unforgettable relay for Road Warriors

Yvette Leecy and her Road Warriors team had run in the Cascade Lakes Relay each summer for the past four years.

She was hoping the team would run the 217-mile relay again this summer. But she was facing some serious challenges.

All eight of her previous team mates were not able to run this year. Some had injuries that prevented long-distance running. One team mate was sick. Some could not take off from work, or were out of town.

And about that time Yvette suffered a loss in her family. Meanwhile she had her work obligations at Forestry. So it would have been easy not to make the relay this year.

But she had become dedicated to the race, and to the Road Warriors team. She started asking people she knows if they would like to join the team this year.

Through various contacts she assembled the nine-member team, some runners coming from Portland, some from Yakama, and Madras and Warm Springs. Except for Yvette, all of the team members were new to the Cascade Lakes Relay this year.

As race time came, Yvette was having second thoughts. She was dealing with the loss of a grandchild, and was maybe not



Courtesy photo.

The 2014 Road Warriors: Doug Rector, Brittany Smith and Sky Hurtado (front from left); Crystal Buck, Melanie Widmer and Yvette Leecy (middle row from left); and Kyle Spencer, JVon Smith and Adam Haas (back row from left).

at her best for a long relay.

But her new team mates rallied. "We're not quitters," Adam Haas said.

The Cascade Lakes Relay took two days and one night. The team had two vans, with some of the runners resting while others were running. They ran in the heat of the August afternoon, and in the cooler hours at night.

The Road Warriors not only finished the relay, they made a good showing. In the Open Mixed division,

they finished twenty-fourth out of 96 teams. The youngest runner on the team, JVon Smith, finished fifth in his division out of 84 runners.

More than anything, though, the experience was a great one because of the team work among people who had never run a relay together. "I really feel like I owe them," Yvette said.

"Thank you for your dedication to the Road Warriors and the Cascade Lakes Relay," she says. "I enjoyed the two days spent together,

the great attitudes and memories. Way to show faith and endurance."

The 2014 Road Warriors are: Van 1: Adam Haas, Portland; Sky Hurtado, Warm Springs; Melanie Widmer, Madras; and Douglas Rector, Portland.

Van 2: JVon Smith, Warm Springs; Brittany Smith, Madras; Kyle Spencer, Yakama; Crystal Buck, Yakama; and Yvette Leecy, team captain, Warm Springs.

— Dave McMechan

Fall hours starting soon at Boys and Girls Club

The Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club is closed this week, and will re-open on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Club hours will be from after school until 5:30 p.m.

The program is for youth 5 years of age and older. The

fee is \$25 for the school year per child. Parents will need to register their child for the new school year.

If you have any questions, or need more information please call the club at 541-553-2323.

A thank-you to summer workers

The Boys and Girls Club appreciates the summer youth workers.

We would like to thank Khayree Smith, Kyeowna Miller, Julius Bagley and Mitchell Lira for working at the club this summer.

It was challenging at times, but we are glad you stuck it out with us.

We hope it was a good learning experience for you all. Thank you for being there every day, and having the patience to work with dif-

ferent aged youth with a variety of personalities.

We truly appreciate your willingness to be role models for our community youth.

They look up to you and we hope you've built lasting relationships. We wish you success this school year and beyond.

Thank you again for helping us out at the club. We appreciate you.

Club staff June, Mariah and Triston

A Look Back



Courtesy photo.

Team members in the back row include Delson Suppah Sr., Tony "Big Rat" Suppah and Jim Wyatt; and in the front at right is James Adrian "Stinky" Smith.

Events to mark for FASD Awareness Day

Tuesday, September 9, will be Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day.

Everyone is welcome to come learn more about FASD, the Warm Springs

FASD Coalition, and the coalition mission, vision and values.

Most importantly, you are invited to come share each other's company and recog-

nize the strengths we have in supporting our children and families.

There will be youth dancers, dinner, presentations, and opportunities for learn-

ing how to support each other.

Stop by the old Warm Springs elementary school gym from 4-6 p.m.

Community Wellness exercise schedule

The Warm Springs Community Wellness Program is hosting fitness classes in the morning, noon and afternoon.

The morning class on Mondays is Senior Fitness, from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Senior building.

The morning class on Wednesdays is Water Aerobics, from 9:15-10:15 at Kah-Nee-Ta. There is also Senior Fitness on Wednesdays from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Senior building.

The Friday morning class is Senior Fitness at 10:45 a.m. at the Senior building.

The Monday noon class is Functional Fitness, at 12:10 p.m. in the Aerobics room. There is also Pi-Yoga at 12:10

in Pod A at IHS.

Tuesday afternoon classes are Turbo Kick, 12:10 p.m. in the Aerobics room; and Functional Fitness at 12:10 in the Social Hall.

Wednesday and Friday afternoon classes are the same as Monday afternoon classes. Thursday afternoon classes are the same as Tuesday afternoon.

The Monday afternoon classes is Low-Impact Functional Fitness at 1:30 p.m. in the Aerobics room (beginning). The Wednesday and Friday afternoon classes are the same as Monday afternoon.

These classes are sponsored by an SDPI Community Directed Grant Program.

Project Connect working to serve low income individuals

Project Connect will be on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event gathers together social service programs and volunteers to serve the needs of Central Oregon's homeless and low income community.

Services offered include: medical and mental health,

dental care, legal aid, birth certificates, housing and shelter information, financial counseling, children's services, haircuts, addiction services, employment services, first aid, immunizations, clothing, veterinary services and two hot meals – all at no cost.

To learn more or to volunteer go to: projectconnectco.org.

School

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Congressman Greg Walden sent the flag as a gift to the tribes, to mark the occasion of the academy opening.

Chairman Greene thanked Stan Speaks, BIA regional director, and Dean Seyler of IHS, for their help with school project. The USDA was also provided critical help, providing the tribes with a loan for half of the \$20 million cost of construction.

Representing the USDA at the school dedication last week was Patrice Kunesh, USDA deputy under secretary and Lakota tribal member. She commended the tribes for their commitment to the youth of the reservation, and future generations. "This is a unique partnership in the nation," Kunesh said.

The academy will be a center for the reservation community, and a place where the students can thrive. She concluded with a quote from Sitting Bull: "He said, 'Let's put our heads together and see what future we can make for our children.'"

Master of ceremonies for the dedication was Tribal Councilman Scott Moses. He introduced the Quartz Creek Drum, who played opening



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The academy includes solar panels on the roofs.

songs. He introduced Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, who gave the opening prayer.

Laurie Danzuka and Stan Sullivan spoke on behalf of the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors. They thanked the voters who made the academy possible.

They commended the architects, Kirby Nagelhout Construction, and construction management group, Wenaha. Sullivan commented that slightly more than 25-percent of the work force that built the new school was Native American.

The Autni Ichishkin Sapiskwat immersion program students gave a dance performance, including an eel dance that invited people

Recognition goes to Urbana Ross for her part in getting out the vote during the 2012 referendum, J.P. said.

For a project the size of the Springs Academy, there are many people who helped at one point or another. A partial list includes:

The voters of the tribes and the school district; the Tribal Councils and school board members; secretary-treasurer Jake Suppah; former s-t Jody Calica, Brandi McNamee, former tribal treasurer controller; school district superintendent Rick Molitor; the USDA; Brigitte McConville, artist; Foster Kalama, artist; Travis Wells, tribal engineer; Darryl Smith, school district director of operations; Rob Quempt and Dave Fishel of the Wenaha Group; Bruce Bischof, school district attorney; Douglas Goe of ORRICK; the attorneys of Karnopp Petersen; the BBT Architects.

At the conclusion of the dedication ceremony, school principal Glenna DeSouza and many young students cut the ribbon, officially opening the building. Students, parents and other guests then toured the building.

It was in the spring of 2012 that the tribes and district finally came up with the funding solution. "So thank you to the voters on the reservation and in the school district," he said.