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Miss Warm Springs 2015 Suzanne McConville

Suzanne McConville likes to find inspiring words. "If I'm feeling down, or happy, or just trying to get motivated," she was saying recently, "I'll look up quotes."

One of her favorites is: "If your dreams don't scare you, then they're not big enough."

A good example happened last week at the 2015 Miss Warm Springs Pageant. "I was nervous and scared—all emotions mixed in one," she was saying.

"But I went after it and chased it, and here I am. You really don't know what you can do until you try."

Suzanne won the 2015 Pageant following a close competition with Jazmine Ike Lopez.

"We had two wonderful girls who ran this year," said Miss Warm Springs 2014 Charmaine Billey. "I'm so proud of both of them for stepping up, and wanting to represent the tribes in a positive way."

"Both of the girls did great," said Emily Yazzie. "They both had really good answers to all the questions."

In the talent category Suzanne showed her basket-weaving technique, displaying a yarn basket. She learned the skill from her mom Laura Slockish.



Alyssa Macy/Spilyay.

2015 Miss Warm Springs Suzanne McConville.

Jazmine performed the Bunny Hop social song. She learned this last year, during the Journey to Bella Bella with the Warm Springs Canoe Family.

Suzanne, 18, is from Wishram. She is in her first year at Eastern Washington University, studying criminal justice. Her plan is for a career in law enforcement, either on the reservation or at the Columbia River.

Outside school her hobbies are basketball, basket weaving, and going to powwows. Her dad is Alfred McConville Jr.

As Miss Warm Springs, she said, "I would like to get very involved in the community, to help bring the community closer together."

Helping fight drug and alcohol abuse is one of her priorities. "I know when people feel alone in the world, they might turn to drugs and alcohol. I want to help change that," Suzanne said.

"I want to be a great role model for younger generations to come."

During 2015, Suzanne will represent the tribes at powwows, parades, rodeos, fairs, tribal government events, and other occasions.

— Dave McMechan

Coming up at museum

Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb will have his own exhibit this year at the museum. His paintings and drawings are a creative and funny reflection of the life and character of the reservation.

Travis' cartoons are a regular feature in this publication. He made the *Spilyay* logo at the upper left of the page.

His show at the Museum at Warm Springs will feature about 20 of paintings plus pen-and-ink drawings, said Natalie Kirk, museum curator. Travis' show, *Quiet Strength*, is set to open in April.

Youth exhibit

Later this month the museum will feature the Twenty-Second Annual Tribal Youth Art Exhibit: *Young at Art*. The show opens on January 22, and runs through March.

Young at Art features traditional, contemporary and classroom art created by tribal youth, from toddlers to high school.

Main exhibit

The main exhibit at the museum for 2015, opening in June, will be: *Royal Legacy—Honoring the Miss Warm Springs of Our Past and Present*.

"As role models to young ladies, Miss Warm Springs has represented the beauty and culture of our tribes," the show description says.

"Learn about the protocol, history and responsibilities of bring Miss Warm Springs."

Measure 91 and Indian Country

The state of Oregon this year will legalize the possession and use of marijuana. The new state law has no effect on the Confederated Tribes, which is sovereign. The tribal criminal code refers to the federal list of controlled substances, which includes marijuana.

There is, however, some recent change in the federal approach to the legalized marijuana issue. The U.S. Attorney's office prosecutes major crimes in Indian Country, including the Warm Springs reservation.

"With a number of states legalizing marijuana for use and production, some tribes have requested guidance on the enforcement of the Controlled Substance Act on tribal lands by the U.S. Attorney's offices," according to a recent memorandum from the Department of Justice.

With these requests in mind, the director of the U.S. Department of Justice provided some guidance to all U.S. Attorneys, their staff and tribal liaisons. "Indian Country includes numerous reservations and tribal

lands with diverse sovereign governments, many of which traverse state borders and federal districts," the memo reads.

"Given this, the U.S. Attorneys recognize that effective federal law enforcement in Indian Country, including marijuana enforcement, requires consultation with the tribal partners in the districts, and flexibility to confront the particular, yet sometimes divergent, public safety issues that can exist on any single reservation."

The U.S. Attorneys, then, should work with each of the tribes in determining how to proceed with the handling of marijuana cases.

The Department of Justice memo also refers to an earlier document, "the Cole Memorandum," that provides guidance to U.S. Attorneys in handling off-reservation marijuana cases in states where it is legal.

The Cole memo lists eight priorities to keep in mind when determining how to handle a marijuana case. The priorities include:

See **MEASURE 91** on 7

Telecom becomes self-sustaining enterprise

The Confederated Tribes launched the Warm Springs Telecom early in 2012. Beginning its fourth year, the Telecom has seen steady growth and improvement.

A major accomplishment during 2014: The Warm Springs Telecom became a self-sustaining enterprise. "That was a big step for us," said Jose Matanane, Telecom general manager.

The Warm Springs Telecom now reaches 87-percent of the potential customers on the reservation. "We have over 900 residential customers," Matanane said, "and additional 600 department phones."

A goal for 2015 is to reach 97 percent of the potential customers on the reservation. Once all the needs of the reservation customers are met, the Telecom could begin serving residences and businesses off the reservation with wireless broadband.

Edging out from the reservation, and expanding the customer base, is the natural progression for a telecommunications enterprise, Matanane said.

In 2014 the Telecom provided the fiber to the Warm Springs Eagle Academy, which has state-of-the-art Internet. "For a school in a rural

area, that is rare," Matanane said.

The technology at the academy is at least equal to the service at schools in metropolitan areas. The Telecom also brought fiber to the Roots education program.

A project in 2015 will be to provide fiber service to the new subdivision at Greeley Heights. Those new homes will be the first residences to have the Telecom fiber service.

The final customer to join the Telecom in 2014 was the Museum at Warm Springs, which saw cost savings through this change.

The Telecom in 2014 added three new employees, all tribal members. The total number working there now is 13. The enterprise began with seven employees.

Last July, when wild fires broke out on the reservation, the Telecom provided service to two separate fire camps one enlisted 800 firefighters. "We responded to the needs of the community, public safety and fire management," Matanane said.

See **TELECOM** on page 12

Illusion of Elvis at Casino

Indian Head Casino is hosting its first concert of 2015 later this month, when Danny Vernon brings *The Illusion of Elvis* to the casino. The concert will be on Sunday, Jan. 25, from 7-9 p.m.

The concert will be in the Cottonwood Restaurant. Tickets are \$10. The event is for people 21 and over.

Danny Vernon's professional experiences include being a singing server at a revolving restaurant, strumming guitar and singing acoustic folk and rock tunes in lounges and nightclubs, and recording an original country album in Nashville receiving national airplay. This broad backdrop of skillful versatility helps give stability and genuineness to his *Illusion of Elvis* show.

He performs numbers from all three decades of Elvis' career, including the "recklessly abandoned" hillbilly cat of the 1950s, the sleek '60s movie years including the Comeback Special, and the '70s jumpsuit years.



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