

## Helpful service with Disability coordinator

The Social Security Disability process can be complicated: Questions come up like, How do you get started? Am I qualified? What do you need to submit an application? And what do you do if your application is denied?

Rosemary Alarcon is on hand to answer these kinds of questions, and to otherwise assist people as they work through the process. She can even give rides to



Rosemary Alarcon

Bend for people who need to submit documentation to the regional SSI office.

Rosemary, known to many as Mushy, at first was a volunteer at the Disability office. She was working at the Warm Springs Library, and would volunteer during off hours.

Her background is with Social Security, as she worked with the department for many years in Salinas, Calif.

She moved to Central Oregon in 2009, after retiring from her job with Social Security. Later she moved to Warm Springs.

The Disability coordinator job came open late this summer, and Rosemary was a natural fit for the position.

Her office is in the Family Resource Center, open 8:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. She can also be reached at 541-553-4955.

## Recreation planning for Christmas holiday

Warm Springs Recreation will ring in the Christmas holiday season with the Polar Express Tree Lighting, December 1.

The tree lighting will be at Community Center front lawn at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Christmas story about a little sleigh bell.

"We'll be in our pajamas, so that's how you should dress," the Rec De-

partment says. For more information call Carol at 541-553-3243.

Recreation will also host the **Forty-First Christmas Bazaar** on December 10. This will be in the Community Center gym, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be fresh baked goods, Native American beadwork and basketry, artwork and many gift ideas.

## Fun Day at ECE



Jayson Smith photos.



The Early Childhood Education Center last week hosted their annual Halloween parade and trick-or-treating walk.



## Around Indian Country

### Tribes cautious amid pipeline uncertainty

Tribal leaders are reacting with caution after President Barack Obama suggested a potential change in the route for the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline.

Council chairman Dave Archambault II of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe credited Obama for expressing concerns about sacred sites.

But he reiterated the need for a full environmental review of the controversial pipeline, which comes within a half-mile of his people's reservation.

"The nation and the world are watching," Archambault said. "The injustices done to Native people in North Dakota and throughout the country must be addressed."

Chairman Harold Frazier of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe also was "encouraged" by Obama's remarks. But to

date, he said no one from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or any other federal agency has contacted him about a potential change in the route.

"In the meantime, the state of North Dakota continues to violate my people's human and constitutional rights as they stand as protectors of our water at the Oceti Sakowin camp," Frazier said in a statement on Wednesday. "Resolution of this issue is urgent."

The majority of the pipeline in North Dakota has already been built on private property, where the Army Corps lacks jurisdiction. But a crucial portion crosses federal land at Lake Oahe along the Missouri River.

The Army Corps has yet to approve an easement for work at the site and Obama, during his interview, sug-

gested that a decision was still "several more weeks" away.

The delay offers some measure of hope to the tribes that the easement might eventually be denied, which could force Dakota Access to change the pipeline route.

But in their rush to complete the project, construction crews have already cleared, graded and, in some cases, bulldozed areas where sacred sites and burial grounds are located.

A new example of those kind of disturbances came to light at a public meeting last week.

Energy Transfer Partners, the parent company of the pipeline, failed to provide timely notification about tribal artifacts uncovered at a construction site, according to the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

"I was really extremely disappointed that the company failed to notify us about this when it happened," Julie Fedorchak, the chair of the commission, said during the administrative portion of the meeting.

According to documents filed with the commission, the disturbance occurred on October 17. But Energy Transfer didn't provide official notice until 10 days later.

The company eventually "did the right thing" and the pipeline route was modified to avoid further disturbances, Fedorchak said.

Although ancestors apparently weren't uncovered, she noted that the artifacts were cairns, which are stone formations or stone features that tribes use to mark important places, including gravesites.

## COCC 'Getting Started'

Central Oregon Community College is offering two 'Getting Started' presentations from 11 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 18, in room 152/156 in the Boyle Education Center on the COCC Bend Campus.

This is an opportunity for prospective students, who are seeking a degree or just a few classes, to meet with a COCC admissions representative for guidance through time-sensitive steps for enrollment, including federal funding,

choosing appropriate courses and the use of academic support services.

For information or to RSVP, call 541-383-7500.

In advance of college events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Viola: 541-383-7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact the Office of Disability Services: 541-383-7743.

## Resources to help special needs students

Young adults with special needs frequently face the dilemma of what to do after high school. With a little support and planning, they are often capable of holding jobs, going to college and living on their own.

The High Desert Education Service District's Transition Network offers a variety of tools and resources to assist students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in transitioning to independent and productive lives after high school.

"Transition Network partners directly with students and their families, as well as educators and employers throughout Central Oregon," said Margie Blackmore, Transition Network facilitator.

"We provide tools, out-

reach, technical assistance and training opportunities to support students in their successful transition from high school to employment or secondary education."

"There is a lot of information available on our website to help students and their families prepare for and make that important next step in life," said Blackmore. "We are also on Facebook and have an electronic newsletter that people can sign up for on our website."

The Transition Network website can be found at:

[hdesd.org](http://hdesd.org)

Or on Facebook: [transitionnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/transitionnetwork).

For more information about Transition Network, call Margie Blackmore at 541-693-5717.

## COCC Nursing orientation

Central Oregon Community College is offering a nursing program orientation session in Redmond and Bend.

The Redmond gathering will be from 5 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, in room 306 of Building 3 on the COCC Redmond Campus.

In Bend, the session will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, in room 140 of the Health Careers Center on the COCC Bend Campus.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the selection procedure for students interested in applying to COCC's Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program as well as the prerequisites for applying and support courses

necessary for the AAS degree.

It is not necessary to be enrolled at COCC to attend this orientation, and reservations are not needed. However, admission into COCC's Nursing program requires in-district residency. Contact the Admissions and Records office at 541-383-7500 for details about residency.

For information, call 541-318-3741. In advance of college events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Viola: 541-383-7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact the Office of Disability Services: 541-383-7743.

## COCC closed Veterans Day

All Central Oregon Community College campuses will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11 in recognition of Veterans Day.

There will be no classes that day and all administrative offices will be closed.

For more information: 541-383-7596.