

January brought transportation challenges

The tribal organization, the Warm Springs Academy and other schools of the district were closed for part of last week, as a winter storm passed over the area. Jefferson County, the Sisters District and Crook County schools had to close because of the storm, while all other schools in the region were on a start delay.

The weather event began on the Monday following New Year's weekend, and continued mostly through the week before clearing over this past weekend.

Meanwhile last week, transportation on the reservation was disrupted for a time after a large boulder fell from a hillside and closed one lane of Jackson Trail Road, around milepost 8. BIA Roads re-



Courtesy KWSO

Boulder on Jackson Trail Road blocking traffic last week.

sponded. No injuries were reported.

And in another weather-transportation event: Highway 26 was

closed for a time last week from milepost 62 to 96 due to the snow and downed trees.

They made a difference for the tribes

Hello,

My name is Wa-Thlu-Na. My given name is Valerie Squiemphen. I am of Wasco/Warm Springs/Yakima descent. Wa-Thlu-Na came from my mother, Udwai, Rita Squiemphen; which in turn came from Eva Thomas, who was Jake Thomas' eldest daughter. Jake Thomas was my grandfather, Udwai Lucinda Smith's grandfather.

Wa-Thlu-Na, or Eva Thomas, was a no nonsense, take charge kind of woman. My mother used to take after her, she was the same kind of strong, Wasco woman. I've been told that I take after my mother.

Wasco names have no particular meaning, they are Indian names given to Wasco people. Wasco people can choose who they want to carry on their names. My mother told me after I became an adult and a mother, late in my life, that I would get her Indian name.

I learned a few things about my parents that I never knew. They were both very strong leaders in our community, which I already knew. They stood up for what was right and were always looking out for their people; I knew this as well. They didn't just help their own tribal people, they tried to help people from either of our three tribes. It was amazing to me that they were smart and forward thinking people. A lot of elders are stuck in the 'old days' and have 'outdated' visions. They were parents that I could look up to and hope that I would become the kind of people they were. I certainly don't have their drive to be on Tribal Council, but hope I take after them in other ways.

They were always helping people, not just on Tribal Council, but on a personal level. They applauded the loudest when someone graduated from high school or college, as they both only made it to the eighth grade. Both of my parents got their GED's late in life. My dad received his Mechanic's certification the old way... through the mail. And I found out while he was still working at the mill, that he was short one or two classes away from getting his Pilot's license. He was taking lessons at the airport in Madras after work. Plus, he was always reading my school books that I bought when I was in college... He was always willing to learn.

They helped people on the rodeo circuit, when people were short on money getting to the rodeo or getting home from the rodeo, or if they needed help with their entry fees. They even loaned

out my Dad's horse, Buck. My mother helped out by baking pies whenever someone lost a family member. She never asked if they wanted help, she just did it! Or she would donate give-away items to a funeral; she never asked them if they needed help, she always stepped up and did it! There was never an ulterior motive to her actions. She did it out of the goodness of her heart. Same with my Dad, when he helped someone, he didn't expect anything in return. I used to get mad because I felt that some people were taking advantage of them. But they were of the mind-set that they get what they deserve.

My parents believed that if we needed money, we had to work for it. Whether it was putting the time and energy in to raise the money or working our butts off to earn it. They believed in not taking handouts from the Tribe if possible; if we could raise the money, all the better.

She and my Dad were instrumental in putting on the very first Fire Management potluck/awards banquet for All of Fire Management staff, after a summer of nothing but fires. She set a date, then started recruiting the family members of those workers in Fire Management. They bought a lot of the awards out of their own pocket. They did some fund-raising, but it didn't cover everything, so they donated all of the rest of the awards to the banquet. She had help from William Wilson in getting names together and what department. It was a major undertaking and she pulled it off. I remember a lot of people complained about the awards, but considering it came out of their pocket, it was something. Together, my parents were a force to be reckoned with. They got family members to cook side dishes; my mother had a way about her that she could people excited about something and then worked her butt off to see it thru and make sure it happened. And it did happen. There were a lot of appreciative people afterwards. People got the recognition they deserved and all because my folks had a vision.

I often wonder what they would have done during the pandemic. They would have had some ideas about what could have been done.

They would have been proud of their kids and grandkids, all are hard-working adults and all have jobs, or else they have retired. They would be especially proud of their granddaughters, Amanda and Teri Jo, who live in Portland and are making names for themselves do-

ing good work for their community. At the young age of 28 and 30 years old, both are becoming forces to be reckoned with. Amanda is gaining a large circle of contacts for certain projects she's working on. She was the driving force behind the Chuush Fund.

Teri Jo is making a name for herself in the world of photography and other crafts. They take after their parents and grandparents in that they work hard at what they do and have a lot of integrity, highly unusual in people so young.

I have gotten slightly off track with where I was going with this. But I did want to bring to light that my parents were both strong people of great integrity. My mother was a hardworking Wasco woman and my dad was a strong warrior, both were strong leaders in Warm Springs.

And thank you...

Anyway, after all that, I would like to thank everyone that showed up to help during our Name Giving on November 20. It was a lot of work and I'm very proud of my son in that he was the driving force behind making it happen. He is a strong Wasco man, who is also taking after his grandparents. We had many people helping with making sure it was a success. Anybody that puts one of those together knows how much work it is.

Thank you to Gary and Angela for making sure everything went as it should have; thank you to Andrew Wildbill for officiating, Thank you to Monica, Amanda, Teri Jo, Cr, Gladys, Terry, Jordan, Evelyn, Aunt Susie, Cousin Emerson, in-law Vernon Tias, Jennifer Clements and daughter (for making all the lunches) and everyone that worked in helping to make sure it went as it should have. We couldn't have done it without all of you. I especially want to thank my family members that showed up to show their support. It meant a lot to me. A lot of us were not raised in the traditional ways.

On behalf of myself, my grandson Gary III and great grandson Kysen, Thank you everybody!

Because I wasn't raised in the traditional manner, I told my family they better get all the pictures they could of me in my wing dress, as that's the last time they'll ever see me in a dress!

Thank you, everyone who worked to make it a success and thank you to all the people who showed up to witness this event.

Val Squiemphen, 'Wa-Thlu-Na'

Park for day use only

For the health and safety of the membership, Tribal Council has determined that Elmer Quinn Park is for day use only.

In response, Warm Springs Police, Emergency Response and volunteers helped move transients from the park.

They then cleaned up the

debris that had accumulated around the park.

Health and Human Services and Emergency Management set up a temporary shelter in the gymnasium at the former Warm Springs elementary school.



Courtesy KWSO

Scene at Elmer Quinn Park, as volunteers and police clean up debris from a transient camp, moved temporarily to the former elementary school gym.

Around Indian Country

Nooksack disenrollment controversy

EVERSON, Wash. — The Nooksack Indian Tribe are removing 300 people from tribal enrollment. This has been bitter process, with many people facing home eviction. To make matters more difficult, this happens in winter, and during the pandemic.

Tribal police were called on to enforce the evictions. Educational aid, health services and financial stipends are also denied to those who are disenrolled; along with a loss of some sense of community.

The disenrolled Nooksack members are now petitioning the federal government to intervene. "On the face of it, for sure we want sovereignty," said Michelle Roberts, an expelled Nooksack member who faces eviction. "But when that sovereignty is used as a tool to bully people and take advantage of the system, to kick them out of their tribe or to take any kind of services or anything away from them, then that's when it needs to be controlled somehow."

The Nooksack Tribe includes about 2,000 members. The tribe has trust land and a small reservation, bringing in revenue from a

casino, convenience store and a gas station. The right to fish salmon along the Nooksack River is a treaty right.

The Nooksack situation is not unique around Indian Country: A number of tribes have moved in recent years to cut their membership rolls. The process involves scrutinizing family trees, and cutting those deemed to have insufficient tribal heritage. This can strengthen tribal identity. However, another aspect involves casino and other tribal business revenue, and job opportunities.

Regarding the Nooksack, their Northwood casino has not been a big money earner. The disenrolled say job opportunities and tribal leadership positions are more central issues, as they have been for years.

Nooksack leaders have said the expelled people are descended from a tribal band based in Canada, and should not have enrolled as Nooksack in the first place. For instance, none had direct ancestors included in a key tribal 1942 census.

Record large sturgeon at Idaho

In three decades of capturing and tagging white sturgeon, researchers with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have handled more than 4,000 fish. Of those, fewer than ten have measured longer than 10 feet, and the people taking part in the sturgeon-

sampling work hadn't caught one that big in more than five years.

Then late last month, all that changed in what regional fisheries biologist Joe DuPont called an "amazing week" on the Snake River in Hells Canyon. The research team hooked three 10-foot sturgeon.

Hatchery staff save 4 million salmon

On Christmas Day at 11:30 p.m. an alarm for low water was activated on the ponds at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Kendall Creek Fish Hatchery on the North Fork Nooksack River near Deming.

The failure of these two water pumps put at risk 1.5 million spring Chinook salmon, 850,000 Nooksack River coho yearlings, 1 million coho in incubation, 100,000 early-winter

steelhead, 375,000 Kendall Creek coho, and "a bunch of trout," according to WDFW regional Fish Program staff.

All told, the quick thinking and hard work of Flowers and the others protected nearly 4 million young salmonids — fish vital for future recreational, commercial, and tribal treaty fisheries, and important for species including Southern Resident killer whales.

Oregon's southernmost glacier may be gone

Until recently, Oregon's southernmost glacier was on Mount Thielsen, an extinct volcano mountain in the Cascade Range, east of Diamond Lake in Douglas County. But sometime over the past half decade, Lathrop Glacier disap-

peared.

Oregon Glaciers Institute President Anders Carlson said Lathrop Glacier was a little less than half the size of a football field, just 0.002 square kilometers in area. It was Oregon's smallest glacier.

Pet Food Bank this Saturday

The Warm Springs Community Pet Food Bank provides free pet food on the second Saturday of each month.

This month Fences for Fido postponed distribution to this Saturday, January 15 from 10 a.m.



until noon.

You can reserve your pet food by calling or texting 503-319-9838 or email: petfoodbank@fencesforfido.org