

Warm Springs spiritual leader passes away

(AP) — Pierson Mitchell, a Warm Springs spiritual leader and tribal administrator who helped preserve his tribe's language and tradition, has died following complications from surgery. He was 65.

Mitchell, a widely respected religious and cultural leader, was well-known throughout the Northwest for his compassion, knowledge, and humor.

He served as the spiritual leader of the Simnasho Longhouse on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and played an essential role in maintaining the songs, ceremonies, and traditions of the traditional Wah-shut religion.

"He was willing to share and teach it," said Rudy Clements, a Warm Springs spokesman who worships at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Clements said Mitchell was frequently asked to conduct services in peoples' homes, to hold ceremonies for tribal functions and explain Warm Springs culture and heritage to the general public as well as to American Indians.

Pierson Mitchell was born March 2, 1933 on the Warm Springs reservation. He was a former Tribal Council member. He served in the U.S. Army and married his wife, Rose, on January 16, 1976.

Enterprise "Savages" decide to keep nickname

(AP) — Savages will still run the halls at Enterprise High School in Enterprise, Oregon, but the smiling Indian will have to go.

Students voted last month to keep their nickname, despite the school board's objection to the way it depicts Native Americans. Students will have another election to determine whether the Indian logo will be changed to a fiery muscular man or an axe-wielding monster.

Savages won 75 percent of the vote, beating out 26 nickname entries that included the Silverback,

the Savage Bighorn, Savage Storm, and the Wolverines. When the new logo is chosen, the school will replace the tomahawks in the center court of their gym. Uniforms will be changed as they wear out.

"We just don't have the money to get rid of everything at once," said principal Ron Brown.

The Enterprise School Board voted last year to change the nickname after Nez Perce tribal representatives said that a cartoonish depiction of a grinning Indian is offensive.

Oregon Gardeners: Plant a row for the hungry

CORVALLIS — When you plant your vegetable garden this spring, the Oregon Master Gardeners would like you to plant an extra row of peas, carrots, or tomatoes for Oregon's hungry. Fresh produce is one of the most-needed and hardest-to-provide items for the one in eight Oregonians who last year needed emergency food through the Oregon Food Bank.

This year, the Master Gardener Association, whose members volunteer their expertise through the Oregon State University Extension Service, has teamed with the Oregon Food Bank to launch the first statewide "Grow an Extra Row" program.

It works like this: Home gardeners will plant a little extra fresh produce in their gardens this year. At harvest time, they will contact their local county extension agent for the name of the nearest emergency food distributor, food kitchen or other outlet for feeding the hungry.

"We'll serve as an information point, directing people where to take their produce," said Ann Marie VanDerZanden, the OSU leader for the Master Gardener Program.

Started by garden writers and suggested in *Organic Garden* magazine, the idea of solving hunger at the garden-roots level has sprouted nationally as the "Plant a Row" program.

In Oregon, Jackson and Josephine counties have had a similar program for a number of years, with great success. Now organizers would like to transplant that success to other areas of Oregon.

"That help is invaluable to making the program work," said Amy Stork, the spokeswoman for the Oregon Food Bank in Portland.

The Food Bank is the hub of a network of agencies in Oregon that distribute the food to those who need it. Last year the non-profit, community-based

organization collected and distributed emergency foodstuff to 385,000 Oregonians and served 2.7 million meals.

Although the Food Bank can accept large donations and truckloads of surplus produce from grocery outlets, it has neither the staff nor the distribution system to collect and distribute fresh produce from thousands of backyard gardens.

So the challenge was connecting gardeners with their local emergency food outlets. This is where the Oregon Master Gardeners Association entered the picture. Its members are trained in the fine points of gardening by OSU's Extension Service county offices. Home gardeners should contact one of the 21 local Master Gardener chapters throughout Oregon.

This year, the OSU Extension offices will help Master Gardeners who would like to provide produce for food boxes and soup kitchens with the number and location of the nearest emergency food outlet or soup kitchen. Donations will be much appreciated. Fresh produce is a rarity in the emergency food system.

Ideally, gardeners should know where they will be taking their produce before they begin their harvest, so they can take it directly from the garden to the food distribution center with as little lag time as possible.

And don't worry if you have too many zucchinis or tomatoes and figure the agency will be inundated with such items. Even too much zucchini is a treat, Stork said. "Fresh is always better than canned."

For more information please contact your local Oregon Master Gardeners Association or the Oregon Food Bank at 1-800-777-7427 or (503) 282-0555.

Letters

To the Editor,

Special thanks to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Medical Clinic. Two months ago, without warning, my vision became blurred. I was unable to focus and unable to recognize people. Other symptoms included halos around lights and no distinction of things within shadow or darkness. Thanks to the optometrist from Chemawa I got a blood test to check my blood sugar. Dr. Molloy from the Medical Clinic diagnosed me with adult-onset-diabetes. There were no symptoms other than the blurred vision, which was not painful but certainly annoying.

I have since been able to monitor my diet, lower the blood sugar to normal, and I now have new prescription glasses so I can see the world and people once again. I appreciate our Medical Clinic staff; the optometrist, who is at the Clinic each Tuesday; the Pharmacy for their quick response to my medical emergency; and to Bonnie Tom for the emergency transport to the ophthalmologist in McMinnville on March 26.

Yes, I am fortunate to live in Grand Ronde, within the Contract Health Service area. I am delighted to work in Forestry for the Tribe. Thanks to the Creator for blessings and my ancestors that I am a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Claudette Parazoo

Grand Ronde Tillicum Elder #2923

Dear tribal members:

I was one of the first tribal members to purchase a manufactured home in the Grand Meadows Park. Everyone at the Housing Authority worked very diligently at helping me through the process. Bryan Langley went far above his job description to get everything done. This was my first time buying a home, so at times I did not understand the procedures. Linda Layden was very caring and seemed to have answers to all my questions. Terri Eastorp takes pride in her job and was very helpful as well. At times, Lonnie Leno would help me with my concerns. I am grateful to everyone at the Housing Authority. They are an excellent team!

Jan Michael Reibach

Roll # 3227

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