

Tom graduated from Pueblo's Central High School in 1964 and from the Southern Colorado State College in 1968, before going on to earn a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University. He served in the National Guard after college and went on to work for the Associated Press, joining the Chieftain in 1977.

Coloradans have truly benefited from Tom's canny political analysis over the years. He set the standard for reporters covering State government and politics for regional papers, keeping in mind the big picture for the State even as he paid special attention to what was important from the local angles.

In particular, he has been a faithful fighter for shedding light and stimulating public discourse about the lifeblood of the West: water. In numerous articles and editorials, he has outlined for his readers the issues surrounding and complicating water use in the agricultural heartland that is southern Colorado and served as a megaphone for their interests to legislators.

Tom wrote in an editorial last year, "Our obligation is to the public, not the office-holder." To recognize his committed coverage of the Colorado statehouse, the Colorado Press Association awarded Tom its inaugural Shining Star in 1995 for being the best all-around reporter.

Many reporters who cut their teeth on Colorado politics will tell you that Tom's example and mentorship helped them become better eyes and ears for their own communities.

He also proved that showing up is half the story: there is a legend that the only time Tom ever took a leave of absence is when he came down with the West Nile virus. That dedication to his work speaks of a deep love and sense of responsibility for his hometown community, and it earned him the respect of his peers and his subjects alike.

Southern Colorado will miss Tom McAvoy's voice on the issues that matter to the region, but I have a feeling his wife Sue and their three children will have to share him in retirement with his continued service to his community.●

OIT WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls has long been a leader in America's effort to develop geothermal energy, and it's also a power in men's basketball, winning national titles in 2004 and 2008.

Now, it is the national champion in women's softball. It is the first women's team to win a national championship at OIT, but I am sure it won't be the last.

The Hustlin' Owls entered the national tournament ranked 18th in the Nation. They came out 1st in the Nation. They were led by a stellar performance from their pitcher and MVP, Jackie Imhof. In the final game, she pitched a shutout, allowing only four

hits and striking out seven. Through the tournament, Imhof was 6-1 with an amazing earned run average of 0.59. Imhof and two other teammates, catcher Kayde Schaefer and shortstop Shauna Collins, made the all-tournament team.

Congratulations to coach Greg Stewart and the Hustlin' Owls of OIT. Clearly, they are doing something right at Oregon Institute of Technology.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1216. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

At 8:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 990) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1216. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1125. A bill to improve national security letters, the authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1873. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fire-Resistant Fiber for Production of Military Uniforms" (RIN0750-AH22) (DFARS Case 2011-D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1874. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Eric T. Olson, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1875. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan for Fiscal Year 2012 and the succeeding 4 years, Fiscal Years 2013-2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1876. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requests for Modification or Revocation of Toxic Substances Control Act Section 5 Significant New Use Notice Requirements; Revision to Notification Regulations" (FRL No. 8858-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1877. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee; Chattanooga; Determination of Attaining Data for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standard" (FRL No. 9312-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1878. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Permits for Construction and Major Modification of Major Stationary Sources of Air Pollution for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9311-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1879. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9313-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1880. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the