

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS

Officers Save Woman's Life

Tribal police officers Kay Spang and Kraig Mitchell received recognition awards at the Law Enforcement Recognition Banquet in May. The following information, from Denis Bosque, tribal chief of police, was presented at the banquet:

The purpose of this memorandum is to commend Confederated Tribes of

Siletz Indians police officers Kay Spang and Kraig Mitchell for their efforts in the very early morning hours of 01-01-04 in finding, and most possibly saving the life of, a missing 31-year-old woman.

The incident started with a third-party report that a woman had been assaulted in Tolowa Court at approximately 12:30 a.m. on 01-01-04. Her friends had not seen her since the reported assault and were concerned for her welfare. The weather was very cold and rainy mixed with snow.

Officers Spang and Mitchell, through their dedication and perseverance, worked long after their scheduled time off in trying to locate the woman.

Officers Spang and Mitchell finally located her in a wooded area off of Tolowa Court heading toward the river. She appeared to be passed out when



Kraig Mitchell and Kay Spang

they found her and appeared to be suffering from the effects of exposure to the cold and wet weather.

They called for medical personnel, who responded and treated the woman for her exposure to the elements.

There is no doubt in my mind that if this woman had remained where she was, she would have succumbed to the cold and wet weather, and would have died from hypothermia.

It is with pride that I commend Officers Spang and Mitchell for their outstanding work. They both reflect the standards, professionalism, and devotion to duty that I expect from officers of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Police Department and I am honored to be able to work with two such outstanding individuals.

Miss Siletz, con't from previous page

feather dance songs. Robert and Bud, you did a great job on the recording.

Most of all, I will remember and want to thank my fellow contestants. Thanks for the help, encouragement, advice, and having fun "because laughter is always good medicine."

Thanks to God for being my protector and thanks to everyone who kept me in their prayers. Anyone who wants advice or has questions about my year as Miss Siletz should feel free to e-mail me at the address above.

I want to invite everyone to my giveaway on the night of Aug. 13, 2004, at the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow in Siletz on Government Hill.

Also, I want to remember the ones who have gone before me and made this path possible for me – the tribal members who went to the government to show that we are "Indian."

I know that my grandfather, Robert Rilatos, continued his way of life as an "Indian" even though the government said he had to check "other" under race. I believe that his hardships were made so that I could have the opportunity to go all over the country and tell them who the Siletz people are.

Don't ever forget our ancestors who paved the path before us to have a better education, health, and way of life.

See everyone on the pow-wow trail!
To all my relations – Humchi.

Lamprey Eel Harvest Brings in Nearly 1,000

by Ryan French

During the first two weeks of July, several Siletz Tribal members, along with tribal biologists, participated in the annual traditional lamprey eel harvest at Willamette Falls. Approximately 450 eels were harvested the first day and more than 500 the second day.

This year's eel fishers included tribal members Woody Muschamp, Larkie Logan, Robert Kentta, Tom Downey, Kenneth (Pat) Hall, Del Hall, Samuel Hall, and Matt Williams. Other tribal members who pitched in to clean and smoke the eels included Daniel Brown, Alfred Lane IV, and Snoball Butler. Last year, the group only harvested around 200 eels and found this year's conditions much more favorable.

Traditionally, Indians used to gather at the falls this time of year to take advantage of the abundant spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and eel congregations at the base of the falls. According to tribes that permanently resided near the falls, they called it Hyas Tye Tumwater and was later named Willamette Falls by white settlers.

This time of year, the eels begin ascending Willamette Falls on their annual spawning migration into the Willamette Basin. These eels will burrow down into the sediment and rocks when they reach their spawning grounds later this summer and wait until next spring before they spawn and eventually die.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) commissioners and biologists, who set harvest limits on eel runs, decided this spring on a two-month lamprey harvest season that closed July 31 at the falls.

Years of commercial harvest, for lab animals and bait, has taken its toll on eel populations and has been occurring heavily for more than 60 years. In 2002, the commercial fishery was closed and the personal use/tribal fishery harvested roughly 3,100 pounds, according to ODFW. In comparison, the commercial harvest of 1946 was 397,000 pounds.

According to her letter to Delores Pigsley, Marla Rae, chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, "recognizes that tribal peoples have harvested lamprey at Willamette Falls for centuries, and the important cultural and dietary role that these fish historically played. At the same time, tribal representatives and our own scientists have noted the decline of lamprey populations throughout the Columbia Basin."

In order to facilitate a balanced approach of harvest for personal use and conservation of existing eel populations, the commission has prohibited all commercial harvest and restricted the season to three days per week. Willamette Falls was open through July 31 for the harvest of eels to tribal members for personal use only.



Siletz Tribal members participate in the annual eel harvest at Willamette Falls, led by Woody Muschamp, eel harvest coordinator.