

Culture to Culture

by Teresa Simmons

From Jan. 25-27, the Lincoln City Cultural Center hosted the Sacred Earth and Healing Arts of Tibet. The event was part of the 2008 tour by the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery in Mundgod, India, and the first time the monks have visited this part of the country.

About 10 days prior to the event, a call for help was answered by Chinook Winds in the form of sponsorship to assist the 4-C's Cultural Center in financing the visit of the Tibetan monks. The group of 10 monks came to Lincoln City and over a three-day period, created a sand mandala, an intricate art form that was, at the end of their stay, returned to the sea.

Many different types of mandalas are used by Tibetan Buddhists and they can be created in either two or three dimensions. The one constructed in Lincoln City was two-dimensional and required approximately 100 hours of effort by several monks at one time.

The monks worked on the mandala continuously until the blessing ceremony and dissolution on Jan. 27, when the sand was transported to the ocean by the monks and participants. Over the three-day period, they offered an empowerment ceremony, lecture on peace and compassion, and individual healings and blessings.

They shared information on their culture and traditions while increasing awareness of the hospital they have built and are now in the process of raising funds to fill with needed medical equipment and supplies.

The Gaden Shartse Monastic College was founded in Tibet in the 15th century. After the invasion of Tibet by the Chinese, a small group of elder monks and boys were given land by the Indian government. The monks from Tibet are today in exile in India.

It is there they have built a hospital that will provide free services to those in need in their area. The monks from Tibet, because they are exiled from China, cannot leave India without the threat of being arrested and returned to China, where they could possibly be executed. Those who travel are of East Indian descent, having joined the monastery after those from China fled to India.

They were most appreciative to learn that funding was granted to them to help with their mission by an American Indian tribe. At the end of their stay, the casino was presented with a certificate, a silk scarf and a small packet of sand from the mandala they created during their stay in Lincoln City.



A Tibetan monk stands next to an intricate sand mandala created over a three-day period. (photos by Dean Ingram)

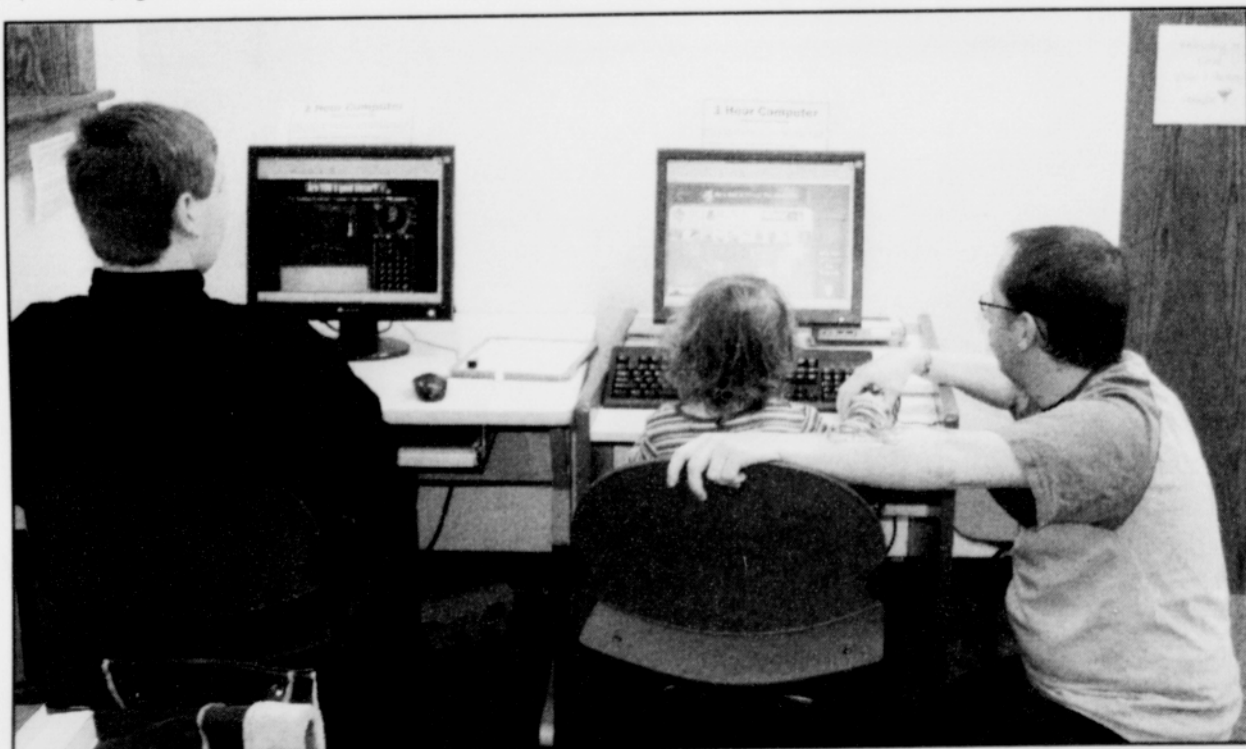


A Tibetan monk returns the sand from the mandala to the ocean.



Library Celebrates 54th Birthday

Library patrons (above) enjoy entertainment, refreshments, storytelling, and a book signing during the celebration of the Siletz Public Library's 54th birthday and its first year in the new library building. Some of the library's youngest users (below) put some of the newest technology to work. (photos by Diane Rodriguez)



2008 Standing Committee Applications Due

Deadline for consideration for 2008 committees is April 11, 2008

Any tribal member interested in serving on a committee for a two-year term must fill out the following form and return it to the address below prior to April 11, 2008. Please mail or fax your application to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Attn: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549; Fax: 541-444-8325.

Name: _____ Roll No.: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: Day () _____ Evening () _____

Choose the first, second and third choice of committees you are requesting by numbering your preference 1, 2, 3 in the space provided. **If you only want to request one committee, please indicate this by inserting the number 1.**

_____ Pow-Wow Committee

Tribal Council will review applications and approve appointments at the Regular Tribal Council meeting in February 2008. If you have any questions, please call Tribal Council's Executive Secretary, Tami Miner, at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1203, or 541-444-8203.