

Two VisionMaker films selected for this month's United Nations film festival

Choctaw Code Talkers and River of Renewal will be featured

LINCOLN, Neb. – Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) is proud to announce that two films – *Choctaw Code Talkers* and *River of Renewal*, which received major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through NAPT's Public Television Program Fund – are official selections for the 14th United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF).

Held Oct. 21-30 in Palo Alto, Stanford University, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, the festival was originally conceived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

From producers Valerie Red-Horse (Cherokee) and Gale Anne Hurd, *Choctaw Code Talkers* takes you into the warfare trenches of 1918, when Choctaw members of the American Expeditionary Forces – who were not yet U.S. citizens – were asked by the U.S. government to use their Native language as a powerful tool against the German forces in World War I. These brave Choctaw soldiers set a precedent for code talking as an effective military weapon that established them as America's Original Code Talkers.

"This is an important story of heroic men whose wartime contributions helped to change the course of world history. Their code was created while the men risked their lives fighting in Northern France during the fiercest and bloodiest battles of World War I. The Choctaw American Indian sol-

diers outwitted their German opponents, turning the tide of the war and ensuring the Allied victory," said Hurd.

From producers Jack Kohler (Karuk/Yurok/Hoopa) and Stephen Most, *River of Renewal* traces the tumultuous back story of the Klamath River Basin in Northern California and Southeastern Oregon. The basin is home to ranchers, farmers, commercial fishermen and the Yurok, Karuk and Hoopa Tribes, all of whom have vied for the rights to the Klamath River and its tributaries.

The river is a vital spawning habitat for wild Pacific salmon. Hydroelectric dams have impeded the salmon's ability to migrate between the ocean and their breeding grounds, which has culminated in low river levels resulting from agricultural use leading to the mass death of migrating fish.

"The dams were built in a time when jobs were needed and sources of energy were scarce. Now we realize the mistakes that were made," stated Kohler.

The UNAFF Festival theme this year is *Education is a Human Right*. NAPT strives to be the curator of Native voices in the media, the home and most importantly, the classroom.

To download free educational resources for *Choctaw Code Talkers* and *River of Renewal*, visit nativetelecom.org/education.

"NAPT is thrilled to have not just one, but two of our titles selected for this prestigious film festival," said Shirley K. Sneve, NAPT's executive director. "With over 600 submissions received by UNAFF, NAPT and VisionMaker are honored to have such great authentic,

Native documentary work represented at this high-profile event."

To find out more about *Choctaw Code Talkers* and *River of Renewal*, visit us online at shopvisionmaker.org or nativetelecom.org. Follow us on the web at facebook.com/nativemedia and twitter.com/nativemedia.

Interested in helping to share Native stories with the world? Become a Friend of NAPT by visiting friendsofnapt.org.

About UNAFF

UNAFF is an independent project of UNA-USA, a nonprofit organization. By making a tax-deductible donation to UNAFF, donors directly give tens of thousands of people a chance to see these important films that bring people together as a diverse community.

About NAPT

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT), a nonprofit

501(c)(3) that receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media.

Founded in 1977, NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues through various media – public television, public radio and the Internet.

NAPT operates AIROS Audio, offering downloadable podcasts with Native filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders. VisionMaker is the premier source for quality Native American educational and home videos.

All aspects of these programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media – to be the next generation of storytellers.

NAPT is located at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. NAPT offers student employment, internships and fellowships.

Help Tribal youth by volunteering for Prevention Program

If you are interested in volunteering with the Prevention Program, basic guidelines include a criminal background check, an orientation with Prevention staff and participation in a prevention video/DVD.

For more information, contact Jenifer Metcalf, Prevention coordinator, at jenifer@ctsi.nsn.us or 800-600-5599 or 541-444-9618.



Courtesy photo

Audrey Casper and (Tribal Elder) Cap'n John Roe of Portland, Ore., who is eating some shortcake and loving it!

SVFOL booth at Siletz pow-wow is outstanding fundraising success

By Audrey Casper, Board Member

The Siletz Valley Friends of the Library had a successful booth at the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow in Siletz in August. The Friends sold strawberry shortcake, brownies and coffee donated by the Old River Coffee Roaster Company, the best coffee roaster in the Lincoln County area. Of course, we are all good customers of this coffee company!

Lots of interesting people stopped by the booth for the good shortcakes, brownies, coffee and the ongoing chat with all of SVFOL's wonderful volunteers.

Our own Donald Carlson donated his signature cherry blown-glass art. These pieces of art can be seen at places like The Real Mother Goose in Portland, Ore. The lucky winners of the two 12-inch tall cherries were Sunshine Keck of Siletz and Jackie Anderson of Seal Rock, Ore.

The money earned by this fundraiser will go toward the cost of staining the outside of the library building. This was a good start on the expenses that will accrue for the re-staining of the facility.

Thanks to all the good citizens who purchased our sweet treats for a successful booth at the pow-wow. We couldn't have this success without your help.

6th Annual Northwest Indian Storytelling Festival Native Harvest

Thursday-Sunday, October 13-16
Portland State University, Native American Student and Community Center
710 SW Jackson St., Portland, OR, 97201

The 6th Annual Northwest Indian Storytelling Festival will feature many of the region's finest traditional and contemporary tribal storytellers with a focus on indigenous harvest and food gathering stories.

Workshops for emerging tribal storytellers of all ages will be held on Friday and Saturday morning culminating in an emerging storytellers matinee on Sunday.

The Festival is open to the public with entrance on a sliding scale between \$5-\$20 for each evening of performances. A Silent Charity Auction will be held at each performance to benefit the Northwest Indian Storytellers Association. Items will include Pendleton Woolen Mills blankets & clothing, arts & crafts, getaways, & other items.

NISA is currently seeking master tribal storytellers to mentor two emerging tribal storytellers during a nine-month mentorship from September 2011 through May 2012. Teams will be awarded free transportation, lodging, and attendance at both the October festival and NISA's March 2012 Retreat.

NISA was formed in October 2005 to encourage, preserve and strengthen traditional storytelling among tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and to share tribal oral cultural arts with the regional community.

Registration for Emerging Tribal Storyteller Workshops is \$30 and includes free access to evening events and 5 free meals (3 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday).

For more information on the NISA Festival, mentorship opportunity, and emerging storyteller workshops visit our website at wisdomoftheelders.org, or contact Fox Blackhorn-Delph at (503) 775-4014 or by e-mail at fox@wisdomoftheelders.org.

Sponsored by Northwest Indian Storytellers Association, Indigenous Nations Studies at PSU, and Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.