

KWSO hosts summit

Mary Sando-Emhoolah, Station Manager of KWSO announced that The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the radio station will host the first annual Inter-Tribal Native Radio Summit. The conference will run from June 3rd through the 7th at Kahn-Nee-Ta Resort.

Station managers, producers, engineers, program directors, and staff from Native radio stations around the country will share thoughts on ways to better serve their communities, utilize new technologies, and reach urban Native Americans not served by the predominantly rural radio stations. Organizer Peggy Berryhill anticipates approximately one hundred and thirty will attend.

Starr to perform



Warm Springs residents have a treat in store Monday evening. Arigon Starr, popular Native American singing artist will be performing at 7 pm at the Community Wellness Center. KWSO plays Starr's music regularly. Two of her CDs are *Wind Up* and *Meet the Diva*.

Based in Los Angeles, Starr is currently touring the region and, after talking to contacts at Warm Springs, decided to include the reservation in her itinerary. Tickets will be \$3 at the door.



Samuel Lawrence Wolfe and Elizabeth Ardis Smith, both of Warm Springs will be married on Tuesday, March 13, 2001.

Mr. Wolfe, 25, is the son of Flossie Wolfe of Warm Springs and the late James Wolfe. He is a 1993 graduate of Madras High School and is currently employed as a detective with the Warm Springs Police Department. He has two children, Devon (4) and Kalan (2) Wolfe.

Miss Smith, 23, is the daughter of Eldred Smith, Sr. of Warm Springs and Lani and Rodney Hollingsworth of Culver, Oregon. She is the Program Director/Operations Manager at KWSO Radio Station. She also has two children, Aaron (11) and Jariah (5) Thompson.

The couple will be married on Elizabeth's birthday, March 13, at 4:30 at the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church. A brief reception will follow at the Agency Longhouse.

Absenteeism looming over futures

Three good men sat together last Thursday and described their concern for the children of the Jefferson County schools and of the Warm Springs community in particular. The problem is not an esoteric learning disability but a situation deceptive in its simplicity - absenteeism, a multi-tentacled monster, born of many issues and guaranteed to foster future problems.

Butch David and Foster Kalama, both Native American Liasons, and Jefferson County Middle School Principal Pat Kelly described the frustrations they experience as well as their pride in the improvements they have witnessed in the last few years - improvements they believe attributable to the team efforts of the entire school community:

Kelly, referring to both absentees and children who are physically present but unable to focus due to problems, presents the issue starkly. "Our biggest fear is that kids who are not school-ready, who are not supported by parents will be left way, way, behind."

When David and Kalama talk to students or visit their homes they discover causes ranging from philosophical issues such as the value of education to the harsh reality of alcoholism and violent homes. Kalama, a six year veteran of the system, spends half his time at the high school and half at the middle school. His face takes on the appearance of a ravaged war-victim as he recounts the horror stories that tumble from the lips of children forced to grow up too soon. "It breaks my heart," says the tough-looking, former probation officer.

He describes one student who recently broke down in his office. She told of nights lying awake listening to her parents who were drinking and her fears for them when they left to buy more alcohol - fears they would never return. Another recounts tales of violence. A third misses school because, at 14, she has become the "mother" for her younger sisters and brothers.

Sometimes the solution can be as easy as a ride to school. One puzzling case was finally solved when a student admitted to Kalama that the lack of a family clothes drier in the winter weather was the reason for her absences. Another easily solved problem - Kalama brought the wet clothes to his house to dry.

Wise and capable as they are, Kalama and colleagues cannot "solve" all these problems. After family visits and attempts at intervention, all they can offer is themselves - as advisors, friends, disciplinarians, role models - all elements missing from the lives of these children.

Responsibility for one's actions is a theme the three educators emphasize. "You own your future," is one of Kalama's favorite sayings. Well aware of the overwhelming circumstances facing each child, they still insist that each student acknowledges the consequences of his own actions. Ironically, the three have to educate parents as well as children. David says, "We have to let parents know that attendance is a big issue. If you're not here at school, you're



Native American Liason Butch David watches over off ten bus loads of Warm Springs students

Truancy board hopes to keep kids in class

Frustrated with high absenteeism, the Jefferson County schools are getting tough on truancy - not to wield their clout, but to try to save some students they desperately fear will fall through the system.

A man who deals with this problem daily is Butch David, Native American Liaison at Jefferson County Middle School. "Fifteen years ago, when I attended the Madras schools, people took pride in getting their kids to school. I don't see this pride today." Among other responsibilities, David is charged with tracking and helping students whose absenteeism is problematic. Fortunately, David does not face this task alone. The staff with whom he works as well as the community at large, is determined to find new methods to address the situation.

The Jefferson County Truancy Board is the latest tool adopted to confront absenteeism without suspension or judicial intervention. The Jefferson County schools are the first in Oregon to adopt this device which has been standard for some time in all Washington school districts. Before its adoption the idea

was discussed by the schools, representatives of the judicial system, the Warm Springs Tribal Council, parents and other community members.

The resulting board is comprised of a pool of 15 parent volunteers who have gone through intensive training in information gathering, mediation, and privacy issues. The sitting board will have five members and meet only when a severe truancy case is referred to it.

Typically, a student with recurring absences will be referred to David or his colleague, Foster Kalama, who will try to ascertain the cause of the absences. If the problem persists, they contact the parents and often make home visits to find a way to get the student to school.

Formerly if these efforts failed and a student continued to be absent an inordinate amount of time, suspension was the only option left the schools. Often the student fell through the cracks and never returned. However, with the Truancy Board now in place, the next step will be to notify the student and parents of the option to appear before the board or have their case be referred to court.

If the choice is a board appearance, the student and parent will come before the panel which will attempt to identify the source of the problem and utilize whatever community or tribal resources best address it. The board can propose an in-school opportunity contractually agreed to by board, student and parent or remand the case to court. If the decision of the board is to allow the student to stay in school, David and Kalama will manage the case.

The board recently heard its first case and to date, the results have been encouraging. The student is in school and he and his family are working with David to break a pattern of truancy in place since elementary school.

David and his colleagues hope that the Truancy Board is a device that does not have to be frequently implemented. On the contrary, he hopes that parents will recognize the importance of education and insure that learning is a valued part of family life. On the other hand, he wants parents to be on notice that the Truancy Board is a resource the schools will not hesitate to employ in their efforts to save the children they are mandated to serve.

not learning." They point out that many of these children have not witnessed responsibility in the home, so it is no surprise they have not incorporated the value themselves.

According to Kelly one of their biggest challenges is to instill responsibility in parents. "I need you to be an adult. When you impede our disciplinary efforts, you are preventing your children from being responsible for themselves. We have expectations for these children. Because we love them, we want them to be successful. We need your help."

On a positive note, the three educators are quick to point to the improvements they have seen in the last few years. "Everybody's on the same page," says Kalama. If the student in question is a Native American, "teachers and the principal will come to us and ask for our help. I don't see prejudices or racism like

in the past. Teachers are simply working hard to get children educated."

David is also encouraged. He sees children who have left his domain, the middle school, coming back to visit teachers and coaches. He attributes an attitude change in part to the number of Native American coaches and staff members at the school, each a role model in his own way. "We are no longer here to babysit. It looks like a school should look. We hardly ever used to see (Native American) parents come in. Now they feel more welcome, they participate. You see them sitting in the commons at sports events." This sort of parent involvement spills over into attitudes, and absenteeism drops.

Both David and Kalama attribute improvement to Kelly's four years of leadership and hiring practices.

"Pat's done a lot to change attitudes of both students and faculty. Leadership makes a school better, and he'll do anything in his power to help our Native American students."

Kelly returns the praise, "I give a lot of credit to Foster and Butch. I want them to blast away at me if they need to...to tell me of their concerns. I respect that kind of communication. We have a team approach."

An interesting side-note to the absenteeism issue is a problem Kelly has with state authorities. With one of the most culturally diverse school populations in the state, Kelly balks at the state's reluctance to acknowledge the celebrations of other cultures as legitimate reasons for absences. Often his students feel compelled to be absent for funerals, root gatherings or Mexican holidays. He empathizes with the plight of stu-

dents who try to be participating members of two cultures, yet receive a negative mark on their records. He is also concerned professionally as the resulting absenteeism gives the Jefferson County schools a lower rating on the state-wide school "report card". Kelly continues to address this issue and has not ruled out a possible civil rights suit against the state.

The reality remains, however, that most absenteeism is for other reasons and constitutes one of the biggest threats to student potential. Kalama speaks for the three when he exclaims, "I love these kids - they are our future leaders!" Fortunately for the children of Jefferson County, Kalama, David and Kelly are not truants. They show up at school every day, determined to make a difference in the lives of the children they cherish.

Government Island rock to be put to use

The Tribal Council has approved an environmental assessment for mining as much as 600,000 cubic yards of aggregate from Government Island over the next several years.

Sales of the aggregate for highway projects could substantially contribute to tribal income as well as help prepare the island for future development.

On a smaller level, however, rock on the island already has been put to a generous use.

CASCADE LOCKS - A group of high school students has constructed a raised flower bed from rock on Government Island with permission of the tribes.

The project required permission of the Warm Springs Tribal Council to take rock from the tribes' trust property on the Columbia River.



Kay Strong, the Cascade Locks High School teacher whose senior students worked on the flower bed, said the light gray rock matches another wall built near the school.

Strong said she was grateful for the quick response to the request, which was sent through tribal realty officer Everett Patt.

"He was just so immediate with

his response," said Strong. "He just called back in a day or two and told us the Tribal Council gave kids permission to enter. It was just so nice he did that so timely."

Come spring there will be flowers in the space, which surrounds a reader board for the high school.

Shirelle Woosley, Joy Corbin and Jered Cramblett chose the project,

one of four that students perform over the course of the school year.

At the beginning of the year students work on a home project, progressing to school, community and personal projects.

"The intent is that they move from being a child in a school, to being a citizen in the community," said Strong

Election set

The Tribal Council set an Adoption Election for Tuesday, May 22, 2001. If you and or your child will be applying for Adoption into the tribe, you must update your file at Vital Statistics.

-Fill out a new application.
-Verify State Certified birth certificate.

-Show proof of residency for three years upon the Warm Springs Reservation.

-Letter from employer if applicant is an adult.

-Marriage Certificate.

-A filiation order if parents are not married, especially if father is an enrolled member.

-Certificate of Indian blood on non-member parent.

The final day to submit applications is March 16, 2001.