

Salmon's return

Celilo celebrates with powwow and salmon feast

By **Trudee Queahpama Clements**
Spilyay Tymoo Staff

The Celilo Wyam Salmon Feast was held this past weekend with tribes from Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and throughout the region celebrating the return of the salmon.

Ceremonies started with Washut Services held in the Celilo Longhouse followed by the feast.

According to spiritual leader Rudy Clements, since time immemorial Indian people who come from the Columbia River pray for spring to come. They know that the spring will bring them the Great Food, the salmon.

The Columbia River Indian people believed that the Creator sent their people the very first salmon in the first spring when the world was now. He also sent the sacred perfect natural laws on how the people must live to take care of the salmon. If the laws were not obeyed, he would take the salmon and bring great famine upon the people.

Each spring the people must hold a salmon feast. The purpose of the feast is to show the Creator that they are remembering his law and that they are thankful to him for sending them the Great Food.

The salmon feast is held in a longhouse, a very sacred place to the Indian people. The longhouse is their church. The people cannot think bad thoughts when they are in the longhouse. Bad thoughts bring them bad luck, maybe even death.

The swallows lead the first salmon up the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean. The people say it is albino, white with glowing eyes. The swallows alert the people that the salmon are coming.

When the first salmon is caught a three-day salmon feast is declared. It is a great honor and blessing from the Creator to the fisherman who catches the first salmon of the spring. That person is presented with an eagle feather, usually by the chief of the tribe during the feast.

Three tule mat tablecloths are placed down the center of the longhouse. The four feast foods are placed on them for blessing being served to the people. They are roots, venison, berries and salmon.

The people selected to serve the feast foods will all have been blessed when they serve the food; they do so walking in the direction that the earth turns. The tule mats that are placed on the ground as Indian tablecloths are blessed by the spiritual leaders before they are unrolled as tablemats.



Above, Roxanne Spino-Begay and friend prepare salmon for the feast; below (right) Garrison Tailfeathers is ready for dancing; and below (left), mother and daughter enjoy the powwow.



The water that is poured into cups is brought to the spiritual leaders for a blessing. When blessed, a little is poured into each cup. You drink the water after the feast songs and prayers are completed, just before the people are told, "Now eat." You must never cross over the center part of the longhouse. That is the heart of Mother Earth.

Ever since the Creator gave the Indian people the salmon, the people had to follow the Indian longhouse religion everyday. The first salmon caught had to be eaten at the Salmon Feast and offered by the people to the Creator. If they forgot the songs and the ceremonies to be performed at the feast, he would take the salmon from them. Only after the feast can the people begin catching the salmon for themselves.

The beating of the drums and the songs being sung are the echos of the people that the Creator hears though the heart of the Mother Earth.

The remains of the first salmon caught must be returned to the river where it was caught. Three songs are sung and a prayer offered before the salmon is returned to the river.



Photos by Trudee Queahpama Clements

Howlak Tichum

Marylena Elsa Heath

Marylena Elsa Heath, age 47, passed on March 16 at the Providence Toppenish Medical Center.

She was born July 28, 1954 in Portland to parents Teddy and Delores (Heath) Bruno.

Her grandparents Walter and Ellen Heath raised her at Warm Springs.

Ms. Heath was also an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She lived in Warm Springs most of her life until she moved to White Swan, Washington.

Marylena attended schools in Warm Springs and Madras. She later married George Picard Jr.

She was a very happy person who loved reading. She enjoyed her job as a blackjack dealer at the Legends Casino in Toppenish. Preceding her in death are her parents Walter and Ellen Heath, and biological mother Delores

Heath; three brothers Christopher Heath Sr., Walter Heath Jr. and Larry Heath, one son George Picard III, and one grandson Sterling Kalama.

Survivors include her children Delores Picard of Wapato, Heather Picard of Warm Springs, LeMinnie and Clarissa Picard of Madras, Charisse Heath and Ray Picard of White Swan, WA; sisters Stephanie Heath, Sharon (Richard) Crooked Arm of Warm Springs, Colleen (Anthony) Johnson of Toppenish, Julie Seelatsee of Brownstown, Wash., brothers William "Cubby", Kirby Sr. and Roosevelt Heath Sr. all of whom are of Warm Springs; five grandchildren LeiRon, Kiiwi, Elante and Bryson Picard and Brian Kalama.

Ms. Heath was transported to the Simnasho Longhouse for dressing, Monday, March 18, and overnight services.

Burial was Tuesday, March 19 at the Simnasho Cemetery.

Catherine Veloris Courtney

Sammy Danzuka

Tommy Lee Dickson

At the time of publication, Spilyay did not have information on the above, a complete obituary will be printed in the next edition.

Correction: the Spilyay was given the wrong Indian name for Jeanne Thomas in the last edition, the correct name is "So-Se-Quah".

Publication date of the next Spilyay Tymoo is Thursday, May 2. Please contact the Spilyay if you wish to share information in the Howlak Tichum section of the paper.

Housing: work starting soon on new houses

(Continued from page 1)

The hard part is finding the solution to a problem that has persisted for decades.

An obvious means of addressing the problem would be to expand the Tribal housing programs. This, however, would require more funding, which is not easy to come by.

The Housing Department receives \$1.4 million annually in HUD money for housing activities, including maintenance and repair of HUD and tribal units.

Willy Fuentes, Tribal Chief Operations Officer, has commented that in his opinion the \$1.4 million is not enough to address the local housing needs.

With the HUD funding, the Tribal Housing Department maintains and repairs 100 low-rent HUD units. Tribal funding provides for maintenance and repair of 130 Tribally built units.

Some of the HUD money is also used for construction of new units. For instance, an upcoming housing project will involve construction of new rental homes at Greeley Heights.

Through this project, up to 25 new homes may be built over the course

of the coming year, said Van Pelt. Construction will probably begin in about a month, he said.

Providing new residences for 25 families will help to address some of the over-crowding that is happening in homes on the reservation, said Van Pelt.

(This was the first of two articles on housing issues facing the Confederated Tribes. An article in the next edition of the Spilyay Tymoo will look at some changes that tribal officials are considering to address various aspects of the problem.)

The Springer Golf Tournament, hosted by Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Association, is set for April 27 and 28. Call 1-800-554-4786 for information. Also an MHS Golf Team fundraiser is set for Saturday, April 27. Call 548-7140 or 475-6538 for information. The fundraiser includes prizes such as four rounds of golf at Sunriver Resort.

ROOT FEAST JACKPOT RODDEO

April 27 & 28, 2002

Warm Springs Rodeo Arena Warm Springs, Oregon

Rodeo Starts At 1:00 PM Each Day

EVENTS & FEES

EVENTS & FEES	PER EVENT
Calf Roping	\$50
Steer Wrestling	\$50
Team Roping (Per Roper) 2 Loops (*Limit: Roper may only enter twice)	\$50
Breakaway roping (Women & Boys 14 & Under)	\$50
Bareback Riding	\$50
Saddle Bronc Riding	\$50
Bull Riding Limited...	\$50
Calf Riding (*10 Yrs & Under)	\$10
Women's Barrel Racing	\$50
Junior Barrel Racing (*10 Yrs & under)	\$10
—Electric timer Used— \$2.00 electric eye charge	
Wild Horse Racing	\$10.00 Office Fee per Contestant (No office fee for junior events)

Stock Contractor to be Determined

Call Backs will Be
April 25th—Thursday
6:00—9:00 PM
(541) 553-5209

BOOKS OPEN

APRIL 22nd & 23rd
6:00 PM—9:00 PM
Call: Jodel Johnson (541) 553-5209
CASH ONLY!!

ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ON PREMISES
Not responsible for lost, stolen, or Damaged personal property