

Lessons of the Root Feast

Students are taught the meaning of traditions

By Selena Boise
Spilyay Tymoo staff

Cultural learning at the Warm Springs Elementary School has taught children the value of the natural foods provided by the earth.

When the tribes hold their annual root feasts, many children are provided the experience to learn the traditional ways of this gathering.

Too often, though, some children do not have the opportunity to learn.

So this year, the Sahaptin teachers provided these lessons to their students in the kindergarten through second grade classrooms by having a mini root feast of their own.

These students first went out to dig the roots for their feast at Webster Flat. The roots then had to be peeled and prepared for serving. They learned to clean and grind the roots for cooking and drying.

To further understand the root feast, these children were taught the order in which the foods are served at the root feast. At the same time they use their Sahaptin language in the process of serving and preparing.



Language teacher Suzie Slockish teaches students about the root feast.

Families were invited to the mini root feast held May 2, at the kindergarten classroom trailer. Drummers and singers were there to sing washut songs to bless the food being served.

The children themselves served the food in the order that they were taught and required to be served. They served the salmon first, the deer meat, roots (piaxi and

xaush), and huckleberries because that is the order they are provided to the people. The children learned mannerisms of the longhouse, the right way to behave during the ceremonies or other traditional gatherings at the longhouse.

After serving the food they learned importance of the water to these natural foods and the purpose of drinking water

before and after a meal. A song was sung to end the meal, right after the last drink of water.

"Although these cultures are taught in the longhouse, it is fortunate that these young students are learning these lessons by performing the actual feast and knowing that there is a lot of hard work involved in the traditional root feast gathering," states Wilson Wewa Jr.

Graduation banquet in June at longhouse

The annual graduation banquet for tribal members is set for June 25 at the Agency Longhouse.

The banquet is for high school, college and vocational/technical/GED graduates, their family members and the community.

The event is a dinner and special recognition of tribal member accomplishments in receiving their diplomas, degrees or certificates.

The dinner is at 5:30 p.m., and the recognition and gift presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Recent graduates are asked to please forward a copy of your diploma and graduation announcement to the Tribal Education Committee.

The committee is requesting a copy of awards and special recognition that a student may have received for excep-

tional achievements in academics and sports.

These accomplishments may include: Honor Role, National Honor Society, FFA, Sports, Scholarship Awards, etc., while obtaining their High School diploma, College Degree, or Certificate.

The accomplishments will be recognized at the graduation banquet.

The committee requests that this information to be sent to: Tribal Education Secretary, C/O Tribal Council, PO Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761, on or by June 14.

Please call the Tribal Education Secretary at 553-3258 for further information. It is important to receive this information by the student or family member in order to recognize, honor, and celebrate their accomplishments.

Exhibit features work by tribal artists

The Ninth Annual Warm Springs Tribal Art Exhibit attracted over thirty entries from Tribal Members. Each participant was able to enter up to five pieces of his or her finest art to display.

Bill Mercer, Curator of Native American collections and art of The Portland Art Museum, was asked to make the difficult selection of all the art entries.

He had selected "Spring Blossom," a dentallium wedding veil by Merle Kirk, as the prestigious Judges Choice Award.

Four other artists were se-

lected for the Honorable Mention awards which are Sandra Danzuka, J'Dean Kalama, Pat Courtney-Gold and Lillian Pitt.

A reception was held on Thursday, May 9, to honor the artists and the opening of the changing art gallery.

Other crafts entered are Paintings, beadwork of various items, doll boards, baby boards, elk horn carvings, quilts and basket weaving. The exhibits are on display at The Museum At Warm Springs. For further information contact Natalie Kirk, Curator and Exhibits Coordinator.

Summer work program to benefit youth

Tribal member youths who are looking for work this summer, and a chance to develop job skills, will be interested in the Youth Development Program, part of the Workforce Development Department.

The intent of this program is to provide and develop a strong and capable future workforce, by offering paid work experience, classroom training, career exploration, and support services which maximize success of youth between the ages of 14 and 21 years of age.

The requirements are that the youth need to be 14 years of age on or before July 4 of this year. If a youth turns 14 years old mid-July, then this person will still be eligible for the summer work program next year.

All the new 14-year-old youth will be granted summer work experience. All 14-year-old youths will be required to complete a one-week orientation at the Warm Springs Elementary Cafeteria during the week of June 10-14, from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m., before they start work.

This year is seeing a lot of changes in the youth program. This year, the program will be accepting applications until June 21, 2002.

If the program exceeds 160 applicants, then youth ages 15-18 will be selected through a lottery draw for job slots. Anyone interested can apply from now up through June 21.

All the youth will be paid for six weeks and required to participate in the Volunteer Program by completing 80

hours of volunteer community service work. The summer youth program is a six-week work opportunity that pays \$6 an hour for freshman and sophomores, and \$7 for junior and seniors.

To apply, come into the Workforce Development Department, located at 2101 Wasco Street.

At the office you may com-

plete a pre-employment application, and make an appointment for a profile, colors awareness exercise, and income verification information to determine if you qualify for either the WIA Youth Program, or the Tribal Youth Program.

All applicants must show proof of being Native American, Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native.

Are you looking for assistance with employment, career planning and a positive work environment?

Contact LeRoy Smith Sr. His office phone number is 553-2248, or 553-1338.

Public input sought on Pathfinder Timber Sale

Scoping meetings for the Pathfinder Timber Sale have been scheduled for all three districts.

The Sinnasho district meeting will be held at Sinnasho Longhouse on June 4, Agency at Agency Longhouse on June 6, and Seekseequa at Agency Longhouse on June 11.

All meetings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Tribal members are encouraged to attend the meetings and provide input on the sale. Comments received during the meetings will help to formulate the project assessment that guides activities being conducted in association with the sale.

IRMP standards and best management practices also help to ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources.

The sale would occur in the upper Warm Springs watershed within the Summit Butte and Willow Springs sub-forest

planning units.

The target volume for this sale would be approximately 38.2 million board feet. Approximately 12.6 million board feet of timber would come out of the Summit Butte unit and 25.6 million out of the Willow Springs unit.

An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 acres would be treated under the Pathfinder Timber Sale.

Harvest prescriptions would include commercial thinning, shelterwoods, seed trees, overwood removal, clear-cut with reserve, and sanitation/salvage.

Landmarks and geographic features within the project area include Summit Butte, Rocky Point, Long Ridge, Warm Springs River, Bunchgrass Creek and Pacific Crest Trail.

Treatment objectives would be to control insect and disease problems, control stocking, protect or enhance cultural plant production and generate revenue.

THE CHINOOK ROOM

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CAKE

and omelets and crab legs and fresh salads
and Asian grill specialties and salmon and fresh fruit
and peel 'n eat shrimp and fresh baked breads and muffins
and steaks to order and soups galore and pies

and eat it too!

Introducing The Chinook Room.
Somewhere between plastic plates and crisp linen napkins is a premier buffet - breakfast, lunch and dinner. And it's served in The Chinook Room. Kah-Nee-Ta's tasteful, all-new approach to a timeless tradition. A tempting spread of salads, steaks cooked to order, and Asian specialties cooked before your eyes are just a few samples of how we've taken the term "buffet" to a higher level.

Warm Springs Tribal members receive a 20% discount in The Chinook Room and the newly remodeled fine dining Juniper Room by presenting their Tribal I.D.

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