

Parents, students ready for school year

By Tina Aguilar

My kids seem anxious to start school on Sept. 4. My son will be in the fifth grade at the middle school. He is already pretty much in the "know" because his two older sisters have attended the middle school already.

He's seen both sides of what can happen if he doesn't comply with the rules, and he knows the rewards of behaving and applying himself, if he chooses to follow the straight and narrow.

I truly hope some changes happen for the better at the middle school. Maybe with a new principal this will happen.

Communication is the key word I believe. When the teacher, counselor and parents are all communicating it causes less confusion.

I'm thankful they have a breakfast program because at our house we're all rushing to get out the door.

But all in all it looks like this will be a good year for our children wherever they may be going to school. That's only my opinion.

Spilyay Speaks

By Selena Boise

You know I enjoyed the summer with my kids, our vacation and I am getting myself ready for school to start as well. I have four kids and two stepchildren starting school this fall.

This year compared to last year, I feel like I'm ready as well. Last year I was overwhelmed with the increase of teenagers in my home. It was hard, but things have smoothed out some. I can actually say that I am ready for school to start.

My youngest son is in Warm Springs Elementary School in the first grade and he enjoys school, and learning.

My youngest daughter will be entering the fifth grade at the middle school. She's a little nervous, because it's a bigger school and she heard things that scared her. She's a good kid, and I hope that she continues to build her confidence while she's there.

The two in eighth grade are ready for school and have talked about getting better grades this year. I hope they receive the encouragement and support from their teachers, and guidance counselors this year as they did last year.

I am pleased with the assistance that my high school son is receiving to keep his grades up. There was a time when we felt that he was being pushed through school, whether he was ready or not.

We didn't know that he was behind until it was too late to get caught up. The tracking sheets are an excellent idea because we can see where he might be getting behind, and his counselor can see it as well. So he's being monitored by two sources.

He brought his grades up. His guidance counselor is assisting with ways to continue his improvement.

Boarding school is going to be a new experience for my stepdaughter but she is ready and willing to experience something new in her life. Speaking from experience, it gives a person a different perspective on life in general.

The best of all these schools for my kids is their friends. They look forward to going to school and seeing their friends and hearing about their summer vacations.

Experiences at school are going to stay with these children for the rest of their lives. I hope that they make the best of it. Studying and keeping up their grades is important but it is just as important to build memories that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. That's my opinion!

Great powwow

This letter is written in appreciation of those who helped make the Simnasho Hot Summer Night Powwow a good time. The idea was a simple one: To gather the people, break bread and have a good time. We believe we did just that.

We would like to thank all the parents for bringing their children down to dance. There were two girls who danced right up till midnight. I thought it was very nice of Nelson Zomont bringing residents of the Elder Care center up to enjoy the evening festivities.

It was encouraging to see our elder's Fannie Waheneka, Freda Wallulatum, Annabelle Clements, Hilda Culpus and Silas Williams take time to be there. I want to thank Jacob and Winona Frank for their constant support, and Ray and Buelah Tsumpti for being there.

It was with this kind of support that this one night event came to be. I was nervous as we were preparing the meal and I was hoping that it would turn out okay. As the evening progressed, and I heard the laughter and the visiting going on, it made everything worthwhile. The Elston family made it fun, and we even got to watch Emerson pour it on.

We would like to thank the following individuals for the donation of food, time and assistance in the preparation of the meal: Charlotte Herkshan, Katie Smith, Guy Wallulatum, Keith Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Keo, Terry Keo, Radine Kirk and Nonie, Tillie and Tamera Rae.

We would also like to thank the following:

The two MC's for the evening, Michael Collins and Carlos Calica. They did a great job of keeping it fun.

The Austin Greene family for the use of the hay tarps and the help in putting them up.

Kathy Quempts for taking care of the needed paper work. Gene Sampson and crew for coming down to help out.

Steve Waldorf of Fire Management for coming up and cutting down the brush. Juanita and Scott (and the two who I don't know) from Fire and Safety staff for jumping in and helping. Officer O'Reilly, for being present.

Austin Greene, who donated the use of his PA (it was said you could hear drumming across the valley.)

Jabbar Davis for providing the gen-

erator that lit up the dance floor and kept our MC's on the air.

The Drums: Quartz Creek, Pine Grove Jrs, Eagle Thunder, Wawokya, and Warrior Society, as they provided the tunes. Jillene Joseph from Portland who made a \$50 donation towards the powwow.

Finally, I would like to thank my three sons Huston, Antone and Ryan for helping me with the construction of the arbor (they stuck by me no matter how hot it got). If I forgot someone, it wasn't intentional so forgive me.

If everything goes right, we'll do it again in September, so look for the posters for Simnasho's September Shindig.

Captain Moody

Congratulations

The Talifson family would like to wish a special congratulations on a job well done to Nancy Moorehouse. Mom would have been very proud of you, keep up the good work and good luck with whatever the future may bring you.

The Talifson Family

A great time

Hi, since I'm not able to write to practically everyone in and from Warm Springs, here is what I want to share with you all.

Well I now stay in a low-income program for head injured folks only. It's called the Uhlhorn Program in Eugene.

The Uhlhorn program had its 12th anniversary prom at the Hilyare Center on July 31. I bought myself a real classy white flowered skirt and pretty soft pink blouse to go with it. I was so enthused and surprised when the Uhlhorn program announced big winners in certain contests.

They said, I Ms. Evette Patt was or is the one who can make great success at writing a book! Again, Ms. Evette Patt might make a great success if I ever choose to get myself into politics.

I'm very proud of myself to hear those great accomplishments. I know what I'm able to do now in the present. It is so cool to know what you can do now in the present.

The outfit I wore to the prom brought out the black in hair. I loved the prom for Uhlhorn's 12th anniversary. It was great, and very excellent.

Evette Patt, 689 W. 13th Ave., apt. 11, Eugene, OR 97402.

Reclaiming youth

It is imperative to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their contributions to the "Reclaiming Our Youth Camp."

We had a total of 338 youth and 68 adult participants and volunteers. Geraldine Jim, Terry Courtney, Sam Starr, Barbara Starr, Bernice Mitchell, Ellen Thompson, Richard Tohet, Satch Miller, Wendall Jim, Herb Graybael, Marvin Meanus Sr., Jimmy Wesley, Cecil Brunoe, Brian Luud, Montel Elliot, Russ "Drum Maker" Alger, Luanne Foltz, Lynn Tanewasha, Gorky Mitchell, Andy Leonard, Carlos Calica, Austin Greene, Emerson Squiemphen, Lori Mitchell, Lorien Stacona, Miss Pi-Um-Sha, Rosalind Sampson, Joe Rauschenburg, Louise K. Jackson, Chris Elliott, Nicole Main, Kaipo Akaka, Charlie Berman, Calvin Bahe, Edison Yazzie,

Tedi Tanewasha, Health Fair, Sarah Thomas, Dr. Valerie Ohman, Dr. Rachel Locker, Dr. Miles Rudd, Dr. Tom Creelman/No Ears, Shawn Gaddy, Nancy Collins, Laura Spalding, Winona Stwyer, Connie Johnson, Joy Harvey, Betty Taylor, Jaunita Simpson, Kathie Jim, Yvonne Earl, Rosanna Sanders, Minnie Tula Lakus, Bob Cronkhite, Jim Quaid, Urbana Manion, Annie Kalama, Carolyn Ribiero, Kelli Picard, Captain, Keith, Nonie, Tillie, Tamera, Huston, Antone, Trevor, Ryan, Anita, and special thanks to Art Ochoa

Thomas Morning Owl; Amanda Old Crow and Bobby David.

Tribal Arts and Crafts, Youth Leadership Skills and Sport/Nutrition.

Sincere gratitude to all the donors for their contributions: W.S. Forest Products Industries; W.S. Composite Products: Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, I.H.S. for the Healthy Indian Taco lunch and Health Fried Bread Skit. I was instructed by my elder and mentor to "walk the walk," as there are many people in our Community and county that "talk the talk" and that it turns out to be "hot air".

Reclaiming our youth turned out to be a most positive experience for many tribal youth and family members. Inquiries from participants:

1. Is there going to be another work shop/camp for youth?
2. Is it possible to have a family day camp (young adults feel they have not had an opportunity to learn tribal

arts and crafts.)

3. Can we have this camp when it's cooler?

If there is anyone (group, club, organization or department) that is planning to sponsor a positive event, there are some very energized people (as mentioned) in our community who can enhance with positive energy, fun and lots of laughs.

Respectfully, Char Herkshan

Work program

I don't know what kind of message we are sending out to our young girls. My granddaughters every year are turned away from the Summer Youth Work program, for whatever reason...

Do you realize that we have multiplied in tribal membership, a population explosion that truly has our tribe in a financial demise? Babies having babies should not be encouraged.

Since the children having babies are more often counting on Welfare checks, they become dependant on it. My grandchildren were hurt, so was I, but I will take all measures to ensure that they don't have unplanned pregnancy.

I truly love children, but it is just too sad to see very young ladies strolling down the road, pushing baby strollers....

I will continue to love my grandchildren unconditionally, and continue to teach them traditionally to value themselves. Yes, babies are precious, but the children need to be encouraged to be prepared before having babies.

Neda Wesley

Purchaser sought

As I misplaced her name, will the Native American lady, short in height, who bought a blue chair at my yard sale, July 12 or 13, please contact June at 546-3801, so she may pick it up. The sale was just south of Metolius on the Culver Highway.

June Miller

Reminder regarding letters to the editor

It is the policy of Spilyay Tymoo to print Letters to the Editor from any and all tribal members. Because of space limitations, letters should not exceed 350 words.

Authentic Native American art helps preserve culture

By Roxanne Chinook

Native American writers Tom Hill and Richard Hill explain five gifts that they say Native Americans have received from their ancestors:

The first gift is our deep connection to the land.

The second gift is the power and spirit that animals share with our people.

The third is the spirit forces, who are our living relatives and who communicate with us through the images we make of them.

The fourth is the sense of who we are, which is expressed and sustained through our tribal traditions.

The last gift is the creative process our beliefs made real through the transformation of natural materials into objects of faith and pride.

Thus, whether it is basket making, carving, weaving, painting, pottery, jewelry, beadwork, or any other creative activity, it is linked to our tradition and culture of the ages.

With this in mind it is imperative that our tribal casinos be more supportive of their traditional and contemporary tribal and Native American artists and craftspeople. The type of support I am referring to does not include purchasing a few beaded earrings or medallions to sell in gift shops, but actually hiring tribal and/or Native American artists as consult-

ants during the architectural and interior design process of building and/or remodeling tribal casinos.

This also applies to constructing galleries, purchasing, displaying and/or commissioning only from authentic tribal and Native American artists, providing art scholarships, art programs, supporting and or establishing tribal art organizations and foundations.

Authentic Native American art forms have attained popularity throughout the United States and the world. Sadly this appreciation has resulted in the misrepresentation and the appropriation of our cultural symbols, art forms and motifs for reproduction and sale by non-native peoples.

The popularity has also brought in craft and art forms that are represented as "Native American Inspired." Many non-native artists claim they were given permission to incorporate cultural symbols into their work, but forsake genuine understanding and cultural discernment.

However, Northwest coast masks inspired Picasso, and Jackson Pollock was inspired by Navajo sand painting, yet neither of these artists chose to appropriate these cultural art forms into their work. In a survey of Americans nationwide, a Zogby news poll revealed that Native Americans are

Guest Editorial

the most historically oppressed group of people in America.

The unemployment rate on a typical reservation is between 40 and 50 percent, a figure that may reach 80 or 90 percent on some of the poorer reservations.

The lack of jobs and economic opportunity on reservations is a major contributor to the high levels of alcoholism, suicide and helplessness. These factors perpetuate a continuing cycle of social and economic despair

In turn, each art form or craft that resembles or is inspired by Native Americans that is reproduced, marketed and/or sold by non-natives can only impact the impoverish levels found in Native America today; deprivation on some reservations comparable to poverty-stricken nations of the Third World.

Many of the tribal and casino gift shops throughout the states of Oregon and Washington are filled with mass produced so-called native art forms and fine art creations by non-native artists.

If our own people and tribal casinos continue to support non-natives' mass production and marketing of Native American art forms and motifs, how can we expect our own cultural arts to survive?

It seems like all this would be a

given, but sadly it's not. The western art market is overrun by non-native artists who appropriate Native American art forms, imagery, styles and motifs, such as: Robert Tanenbaum, Jim Nelson, Martin French, J.D. Challenger, Marian Anderson and David Craig.

It is important to understand that when you purchase an authentic Native American traditional or contemporary art form or craft you help to preserve the Native American culture.

We believe through proper education and promotion we can create a greater recognition of the continuity of Native American art, and a better understanding of how the appropriation of these art forms impacts the survival of our culture.

Please implore our tribal leaders to help support our tribal and Native American traditional and contemporary fine artists and crafts people.

Come and visit American Indian Art from the Pacific Northwest website: @www.ebunativeart.com.

(Roxanne Chinook is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, a professional artist, and Director of the Art Marketing Program at Northwest Indian College, located within the Lummi Nation in Bellingham, Washington.)