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## Barbecue bliss

### Natural Resources celebrates annual achievements and birthdays on their lunch break

**A** sweltering 85 degrees, didn't keep the Natural Resource Department from having a luncheon barbecue last Thursday at noon.

The Department decided it was due time to thank their employees and as Natural Resources Manager Bobby Brunoe put it, "let our appreciation for everyone's efforts be known."

Alot of times, he says, we don't have

the time to give recognition to our folks.

Natural Resources Department houses nearly 180 full-time employees and includes such factions as Forestry, Fire Management, and Fish and Wildlife.

Brunoe said, "We've had a heavy work load and handle a lot of different projects on and off the reservation. We've also had a lot of accomplishments this year due to the employees hard work."

At the barbeque there was hot dogs, burgers, chips, sodas, and watermelon served. About 50 employees were able to show up. Some employees weren't able to attend due to last Thursday's Timber Tour.

Attendees also ate birthday

cake for Natural Resource employees who had birthdays in the last 3 months.

Brunoe took a break during his meal to formally acknowledge staff efforts and accomplishments and to wish five employees a late happy birthday.

Among those thanked were the Water and Soil Department for completing the 401 Certification project, ensuring reservation water quality; Terry Luther and Fish and Wildlife for their extensive help with land acquisitions, mitigations, and results with bringing the fish populations back up; the "fire folks" for making it through a tough season; the employees at Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for their analysis work, map work; administration; and a special thanks to everyone.

Brunoe told *Spilyay*, "There's a lot of good things happening and we would like to recognize people throughout the year."

In the past, Natural Resources hasn't had many barbeques but, said Brunoe, "this is something we hope to do more of in the future. It builds morale to get folks together."

The barbeque was held on the lawn of the Natural Resources complex. The new building was dedicated to the late Eugene "Cougar" Greene last year on July 11, 2002.

Greene was the first director of the Natural Resources Department.



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## Family raises money for kidney transplant

Priscilla Yazzie is in need of a kidney transplant, and she and her family are working hard on raising money for expenses related to the operation.

Her husband Edison Yazzie has been hard at work selling handcrafted items that the Yazzie girls, Teri Jo and Amanda, have been making.

The items are braided key-chains, which are custom made and personalized for each buyer. The Yazzies have sold over 500 of the colorful braided chains. They are working all the time to fill the orders for the key chains.

Edison taught the girls how to make the chains. He learned braiding years ago, initially by working with horse bridles.

Priscilla is on a waiting list for the kidney transplant. She could be notified at any time that a kidney has become available.

She must then rush immediately to the hospital in Portland for the transplant. For now, Priscilla is receiving dialysis treatment, requiring her to travel three times a week to Bend.

Medical coverage is taking care of some of the expenses, but there are many costs that the Yazzies must cover on their own.

Toward meeting the expenses, the Yazzies for the past few months have

been working on the braided key-chains, which are becoming more and more popular.

They are also hosting an Indian Taco sale on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Agency Longhouse. The sale will be from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. with all proceeds going toward meeting expenses of Priscilla's medical condition.

The main fund-raising, though, has come through the braided key-chain sales.

Edison said that he is considering offer-

ing the chains over the Internet, through Warm Springs Ventures. However, he said, he is concerned that he and his family would not be able to meet the demand. They would probably have to hire someone to help them, he said.

Anyone wishing to order one of the chains, which cost \$10, can call 553-5817.

The chains are guaranteed. The inscription on the beads can be changed, for instance. Also the color can be changed, say if someone purchased a new vehicle and wanted the new color to match the key-chain.



Priscilla Yazzie

## Columbia River treaty tribes open fall Chinook sales

PORTLAND - Treaty tribes of the Columbia River Basin began selling fish to the public last week as part of what is expected to be the largest fall Chinook salmon catch in decades.

The Columbia River Compact of Oregon and Washington, which regulates mainstem commercial fisheries, agreed Aug. 15 with a proposal by the four Columbia River Basin treaty tribes (Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce) to open commercial sales of fall Chinook, Coho, steelhead, walleye and shad.

Tribal fishers began selling gillnet-caught last week throughout Zone 6, a 150-mile stretch of the Columbia between the Bonneville Dam and McNary Dam near Umatilla. Remaining commercial sales will be open during the following period: Sept. 11, 6 a.m., to Sept. 14, 6 p.m.

Sales of platform- and hook-and-line caught fish began August 19 and will continue until further notice.

The tribes want to benefit from a projected record return of fall Chinook to the Columbia River.

Nearly 660,000 fish are expected to reach spawn primarily in the Hanford Reach, the highest count since 1988.

It also includes 135,980 Bonneville pool hatchery salmon and 91,770 mid-Columbia brights. About 459,000 steelhead are expected to return over Bonneville Dam this fall.

Under an agreement with federal and state governments, tribal fishers can harvest 23 percent of the projected fall Chinook salmon run and 15 percent of the wild "B-index" steelhead-at least 78 inches long-showing.

Herb Jackson, a Nez Perce Fish and Wildlife Commission member, told the compact last week that tribal fishers expect to catch 127,000 chinook and 13,000 upriver steelhead this fall.

As a staple of the tribal diet for thousands of years, salmon are getting increased recognition as one of the healthiest foods available.

Recent studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* cite clear links between fish oils found in species like salmon and reduced rates of heart disease.

Salmon contain high amounts of these healthy omega-3 oils.

The fishery will include fishers from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Under 1855 treaties with the federal government, members of these tribes reserved the right to fish at all usual and accustomed fishing places in the Columbia River Basin. The fishing right includes ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries.

Over-the-bank sales help tribal fishers support their families and make it possible to continue their

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traditional livelihood. Prosperous fisheries also have broader local and regional economic benefits.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) estimates that for every \$10 generated by fish sales, as much as \$7 is contributed to local economies.

Tribal sellers can be found at various locations between Bonneville Dam and McNary Dam.

Major sales locations include the Marine Park at Cascade Locks, Lone Pine at The Dalles and the boat launch near Roosevelt, Wash.

Buyers should bring sufficient ice and coolers to keep fish fresh. Sales are cash only.

Customers can call the toll-free number (888)289-1855 for more information.

**Story idea?**

*Call Spilyay Tymoo*

553-3274