

Around the rez

Kalamas play flute in Germany

Tribal member Foster Kalama and his two sons, Titus, 13, and Simeon, 12, boarded a plane for Germany on Sunday, Nov. 3 with their flutes in hand.

Foster Kalama is scheduled to speak at a university, high school, and three museums while abroad. He will share the tradition of flute playing and other aspects of tribal culture.

Kalama will speak of the changes from the old ways to the present culture, the Confederated Tribes longhouse traditions, and education at the Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School.

Christian Carstenson, a German visiting the area, invited Kalama and his family while he visited the area.

Carstenson offered to pay their airfare and the Kalama family is covering their other costs. The Kalama family returned from Germany on Nov. 14.

Boys & Girls Club keeps busy

The third basketball season for the Boys and Girls Club, grades third to sixth, starts this month.

A basketball clinic took place Nov. 11-14 at the Community Center, teaching potential team members the fundamentals and rules of the game.

Frank Smith, director of the Boys and Girls Club, hopes to have 3-4 teams this year with 3-4 volunteer coaches. Smith hopes to have a basketball tournament with at least four teams on Dec. 21-22.

The Flag Football season finished in October, also for grades 3-6. There were only two intramural games this year, due to Redmond and Terrebonne changing coordinators.

Smith thinks next year will be more exciting with more games. He acknowledged a special thanks to volunteer coach, Otis Iverson, who "taught the kids the fundamentals and sportsmanship."

On November 15 at 5 p.m., Boys and Girls Club is sponsoring a Powwow for its participants. Smith has invited Tribal Council and invites all community members.

Also, a community sweat lodge is being built near the Warm Springs Jail as part of the club's Outreach Program. Community members are encouraged to participate in activities surrounding the sweat lodge or donate materials needed for sweats, like blankets.

The sweat lodge is for Boys and Girls Club participants and juvenile and adult inmates.

The Boys and Girls Club is planning a fundraiser, called "Evening of Elegance," on Friday, Dec. 6. The fundraiser will include a full dinner and an auction. To purchase a ticket or to ask any questions, contact Frank Smith at 553-2284. Tickets are \$35.50. All proceeds go to the Boys and Girls Club.



Photos taken at the Museum at Warm Springs Powwow exhibit. LEFT: Photo of Warm Springs beaded bag displays similarities to photo of Native American woman at a powwow (R), from another tribe.



Powwow exhibit portrays similarities among tribes

By Shannon Keaveny

Two Warm Springs vibrantly-colored and intricately-beaded heirloom bags, two pairs of hide moccasins with floral patterns, and a feather fan offset 54 color photographs at the Museum at Warm Springs. The traveling photo exhibit is known as *Pow-wow: Native American Celebration*.

Natalie Kirk, curator for Museum at Warm Springs, thoughtfully included the heirloom pieces with the photos to display the cultural connection.

In the photos, the viewer sees beaded bags, feather fans, and other resemblances to the Confederated Tribes own Powwow tradition.

The difference, explained Kirk, is in the colors and design. The clothing style is very similar.

The exhibit is meant to show people other aspects of Native American cultures, yet display the similarities between Native American cultures, said Kirk.

Native Americans throughout North America are in the photos ranging from Crow to Lakota to Navajo. Native Americans of all ages in regalia and without regalia capture traditional life and everyday life. Each photo is accompanied by quotes and text that eloquently capture the heritage, enjoyment, and colorful display of tradition in a variety of tribes.

Most of the photos were taken in Montana, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

The photos were taken by Scottish Artist Andrew Hogarth and include over 135,000 miles of "Indian country", featuring exclusively powwows, between the years 1985 and 1999.

Hogarth believes Native American history is a living entity and not a thing of history books. He feels it is felt rather than viewed and embraced as a part of a strong oral and dance tradition rather than held at a distance, as a mere part of the western written tradition. He hopes to reveal how Native Americans draw strength from their past with every evolving tradition of the powwow.

Kirk thinks the exhibit helps

explain the way of the powwow and the significance for tribes. "I encourage tribal members to come take a look," she said.

The English word powwow comes from the Narrangansett word, *pauwau* and means *cojurer*. As it passed to the English language, it became a name for any Indian gathering and as a verb, in English, means "to confer in a council."

Powwows were banned by the U.S. government in 1884 and went underground. In 1933 the ban was lifted. The featured exhibit will be at the Museum until Nov. 30.

Tribal council sponsored the exhibit.

Housing summit singles out biggest problems

Employees from various housing departments join forces and try to find the means for everyone to have a home.

By Shannon Keaveny

Last year 2.5 houses were built on the Warm Springs Reservation. Meanwhile, 150 tribal members wait to either buy a home or rent a home. At the current rate, all the people on the list would receive a home in 60 years.

Most agree, that's a little too long to wait.

Forty-four tribal employees involved in various housing departments met on Oct. 31 at Kah-Nee-Ta for a housing summit to discuss how to make that wait just a little shorter.

Don Harker, private consultant and employee of non-profit Communities by Choice, was hired by Warm Spring Community Action Team (WSCAT) and directed the housing summit.

Before the summit, Harker interviewed 20 tribal community members who have either tried to get a house or received a house. The result revealed the tribal housing application process was extremely complicated and intimidating.

"I literally interviewed people who were lost in the process for years," said Harker.

"Even people within housing jobs on the reservation did not even have consistent answers," added Harker about the confusing housing process.

Harker identified a need to

clarify the housing process as crucial. Most attendees of the summit agreed.

The idea of putting a housing advocate on the front end of the process was brought into the discussion.

"I think people were pretty supportive of the idea of having a person who could do it and walk you through it," said Harker about making the housing process more accessible.

The other idea at the forefront was making it clear who qualifies for what kind of assistance, based on their income, said Harker. The waiting list could be broken up into financial and rental categories according to each individual's income, he said.

"Let's figure out who these people are and get more information than their name and phone number. Let's find out how many are credit-worthy and construct a list according to a person's eligibility. Let's keep the demand side in a framework that is understandable," exclaimed Harker.

Attendees at the summit broke up into groups and tackled issues, such as housing credit, housing restoration, construction, and home maintenance.

"A number of ideas came out of these discussions that are very important," said Harker.

Some results were more lucrative ideas for house designs. Often on the reservation manufactured homes are installed as a quick option.

But, said Jack Quinn, housing commissioner and coordinator for Individual Development Accountability (IDA), manufactured homes are not a long-term option. They don't gain equity but instead lose value over the years.

Also many people think the homes are not attractive so it is difficult to feel pride in your home.

Credit and housing on the reservation is the only option for tribal members.

At this point, explained Shawnele Shaw, Community Advocate for WSCAT, tribal members do not develop credit in the current system.

"Members don't have good credit, but they don't have bad credit," she said.

Issue of sovereignty

The summit discussed sovereignty and the idea of a uniform community code, which would enable outside lenders to use the reservation's court system.

A uniform community code would open up the off-reservation lending world to the Confederated Tribes. Outside lenders are deterred from lending money to people living on the reservation because they don't have legal protection.

This idea of a uniform community code is controversial because many tribal members feel it would compromise their sovereignty.

"This is a legitimate concern," said Harker, "but it's an important enough of an issue that I say, let's address it. Let's figure it out so we can move on."

Shaw, a supporter of a uniform community code, hopes Tribal Council will improve community knowledge about what she perceives as a misconception about the code.

Another idea was to provide financial literacy classes to tribal members to help create an understanding of what it means to have good credit.

"It would address the need for personal accountability and responsibility," said Shaw.

Currently timely mortgage payments and monthly rental payments is an issue. Each year accounts receivable carries over \$500,000 on the books due to lack of payments, according to what Shaw heard at the summit.

The summit addressed the variety of reasons for some tribal members not paying their rent or mortgage.

The reservation housing department acts as landlord to its tenants. Due to insufficient staff and lack of qualified staff, tenants home maintenance needs are often not addressed or they endure a long wait.

"I've heard stories of people waiting years to get their tub fixed," Shaw used as an example.

Harker said the summit helped him recognize that some tribal members believe a house should be provided for them and other members have a more mainstream financial attitude towards acquiring a home.

Currently, there is not a penalty for those who make mortgage or rental payments late.

Discussion of creating a viable financial niche for housing on the reservation and what that would entail surfaced.

"Additional housing could be an opportunity to train plumbers,"

Harker explained the summit's break-out groups discussed the possibility of creating a reservation economy that could support a construction industry.

"How many houses would need to be built every year and how many electricians and plumbers would Warm Springs need to support a hardware store?" he asked rhetorically.

Sometimes, said Shaw, it's hard to get off-reservation construction companies out here.

"The profit margin for them is less on the reservation due to the distance they need to travel. The

ability to get supplies on the reservation would help reduce costs," she said.

According to Shaw and Quinn, the financial resources to pursue a healthy housing industry on the reservation are there.

Presently, funds are provided by the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), passed in 1996 and funneled through Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The reservation also hosts programs like IDA, Home Improvement Plan (HIP), the Demo-Down Project and more.

"And there are many other monies we can begin to access," said Shaw, "There are federal grants and state monies we hope to try to get."

The report from the summit will be available to the public early next week. WSCAT will eventually present the report to the Tribal Council. Harker made clear the summit was only the beginning of solutions.

"It is clear we need a broader conversation but I am very excited about what I saw come out of the conference," he said.

"We want to hear from interested parties with positive and constructive ideas for changes. I absolutely believe we will make a change. I saw an incredible momentum at the summit. We just need to overcome some hurdles," encouraged an optimistic Shaw.

For copies of the housing summit report or questions contact Shawnele Shaw at 553-3148. WSCAT has meetings the first and third Thursday of every month from 4:30 p.m.

Bush proclaims November Indian month

WASHINGTON- In an official proclamation issued by the White House, President George W. Bush has declared November "National American Indian Heritage Month."

Pres. Bush praised American Indian heritage and Indian role models who serve as a central part of America's history, including Sakajawea and the Navajo code-talkers of World War II.

"These examples of our true American spirit reflect our shared history and serve as reminders of the unique heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives," Bush said in his proclamation.

"Upon its completion on the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian will help educate all Americans about the lives, contributions and cultures of our Native peoples."

Assistant Secretary of the Interior- Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb says the president's announcement serves as a clear reminder of this administration's efforts to improve the quality of life for American Indian and Alaskan Native people.

"We are working to focus the efforts of government to create new jobs and new opportunity for American Indian entrepreneurs and tribally-owned businesses," McCaleb said today.

"Our goal of building sustainable tribal economies and vibrant businesses is beginning to bear fruit, but there is much more work to do. I will continue to work with President Bush."