

## Conservancy receives large grant

The Confederated Tribes participates in the Deschutes Resource Conservancy (DRC), a non-profit organization promoting proper stewardship of the Deschutes River Basin

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoo

Recently the Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) awarded \$170,587 over three years to the Deschutes Resources Conservancy (DRC), a non-profit organization spearheaded by the Confederated Tribes in 1996.

It is the largest sum of money MMT has granted at one time in Oregon.

"The funds are instrumental in identifying partnerships outside the federal process that will continue to enhance our restoration projects," said Jim Manion, DRC board chairman.

The MMT support will allow the DRC to research new enterprises and institutions needed

to fund watershed restoration, such as intergovernmental cooperative efforts.

The two specific projects the DRC plans to implement are The Deschutes Wetlands Initiative and The Grass Bank Demonstration Project.

First, the Deschutes Wetlands Initiative will identify wetland protection and restoration priorities in the Deschutes Basin. Afterwards, an evaluation will be made on how to carry out restoration efforts.

The Grass Banks Demonstration Project will strive to improve, restore and protect grazing lands at reduced costs, while preserving the cattle industry in Central Oregon.

The objective is to make private or public rangeland in good condition available to use by ranchers when their public land grazing allotments need to be

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rested.

In the last year, the DRC has worked with groups throughout the basin developing watershed restoration strategy.

In 2004, after initial restoration priorities are identified, further research, also supported by the MMT grant, will continue.

The DRC is a cooperative project initiated by the tribes and Environmental Defense.

Tribal members Jim Manion, Bobby Brunoe, and Jody Calica led the tribal effort.

"The tribes realized the importance of every faction in the Deschutes Basin.

They realized the need for everyone to come together and work towards the same goal," said Manion.

Working with the Deschutes Basin irrigators and other water interests, the DRC concentrates on cost-effective solutions to water problems.

The board of directors not only includes tribal interests, but interests from all economic factions affecting the water quality of the Deschutes Basin. These include logging, farming, tourism and more.

The DRC's mission is to restore stream flow and improve water quality in the Deschutes Basin.

## Around the Rez



From left, Victor Switzler, Jefferson County Middle School sixth-grade class president; Kate Scheideman, eighth-grade class president; Andrew Saldan, middle school student body president and Mike Osborne, Warm Springs Elementary P.E. teacher.

### Students raise money for lost items

Student body representatives from Jefferson Country Middle School recently hand-delivered a "check" to Mike Osborne, Physical Education teacher at Warm Springs Elementary. The check amounted to \$2,010.54.

In just one week middle school students and teachers raised \$1,010.54 in pennies to donate to the elementary school. The middle school student body donated an additional \$1,000.

The funds are intended to replace P.E. equipment lost in the school's gymnasium fire, which took place Dec. 20.

Osborne expressed his appreciation to the teachers and students. He said funds would most likely be used to replace items such as soccer nets for goals, which were lost in the fire.

The student body representatives present were Andrew Saldan, student body president; Kate Scheideman, eighth grade class president; and tribal member Victor Switzler, sixth grade class president.

### SMILE wins two first place titles

The Warm Springs Science and Mathematical Investigative Learning Experience (SMILE) Club recently earned two first place awards at an annual competition in Portland.

The two Warm Springs Teams, the Silver Wolves and the Golden Eagles, received first place in the "Against All Odds" category.

The "Against All Odds" category recognizes factors such as young age and first year contestants with awards.

"Most of our team members are around ten," said Kevin Rodin, SMILE teacher at Warm Springs.

This year's program focused on robotics and how they function in cities. Each team built and programmed a robot.

In the competition, robots earned points by performing duties such as moving rocks, delivering food to stores, and picking fruit off trees.

SMILE is an after-school club, sponsored by Oregon State University.

For over a decade, SMILE has tried to nurture an interest in science and mathematics among Oregon's Native American, Hispanic, African American and other economically disadvantaged youth.

### Boys & Girls picks Youth of the Year

Six outstanding boys and girls have been nominated to compete in a Youth of the Year contest at the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club.

Participants will be judged on their ability to speak in public and write essays. A panel will interview contestants. The winner moves on to the Central Oregon Regional Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Contest.

Teenagers chosen for this year are Terron McDonald, George Boise, Katie Allen, Diana Wolfe, Aaron Heath and Bruce Berry.

In other news for the club Frank Smith, director of the Warm Springs Branch of the Boys Girls Club, anticipates starting storytelling on Fridays at 4:30 p.m. The Culture & Heritage Department will provide storytellers.

Also, various community members are offering use of their sweatlodges for the club's participants. The club will also use the community sweatlodge at the HeHe Longhouse.

Sweats will take place in the afternoons or evenings. In the spring the club plans to build a sweatlodge near the Warm Springs jail for use by the inmates. The Warm Springs Branch of the Boys and Girls Club is committed to incorporating traditional teachings into their program. Anyone wishing more information can call Frank Smith at 553-2284.

## Stories: tradition for adults and children

(Continued from page 1)

At times, they traveled clear to the Willamette River.

From place to place, with grandparents in tow, children were entertained with fables about coyote, monsters, salmon, chipmunks and more. In the proper time, legends were told about mountain formations, landmarks and fresh water springs.

Strong lessons were learned, such as "Don't laugh at other people," or "Listen to your grandmother."

It was here, as a young traditional girl, Miller learned the art of telling a tale.

"We traveled with our old people and that's how we got our stories," says Miller.

But grandparents don't travel with their families anymore and more effort must be made.

"Storytelling is dying," Miller says, "because there aren't many elders who will go out and tell their stories anymore."

As a grandmother, Miller found herself raising her own grandchildren. In her time off from work, like her grandmother, Miller repeated the stories she heard as child.

Before long, word spread, and with her grandchildren grown up, she maintains a reputation as local storyteller extraordinaire.

Community events often invite her to share the stories of her childhood with a new generation of wide-eyed children.

"I was fortunate to have elders to turn to for stories. A lot of the kids these days either don't have a grandma to teach them where they came from or just don't have a grandma that knows the stories," says Miller.

A lot of stories are just about how it used to be, she says. A lesson about how easy they have it. A lesson teaching appreciation for what they have.

"For instance, these kids have a lot more education opportunities than I had," she says.

### Not just a fairytale

Stories can be told all year long, but are mostly they are told in idle times. Legends are to be told only in the winter.

Repetition is the key to a learned storyteller. Families of all ages listen to the same stories for their whole lives. In their old age, they begin to tell what they have heard.

"Adults listen so they can in turn tell the stories," said Miller.

There are stories that are classics, with minor alterations between the tribes. Coyote stories are a common example.

Then there are the memories. Memories may include a time when guardian spirits were

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Adeline Miller  
Storyteller

strongly believed in, and often are reserved for adult circles.

In one instance beliefs lost by the youth were discussed at a Warm Springs Language Department discussion with elders.

"The younger generation thinks these are fairytales, but in our generation these things really existed," said Miller at the discussion.

At that same discussion, an elder man shared a story of the blue jay delivering news of his aunt's death.

"One day we were sitting on a log in the woods," he said. "A blue jay landed and changed its tune."

According to the man, the song was the sound of his aunt's Indian name.

Upon return to his home, an inquiry discovered that the aunt had passed away at 3:30 p.m.,

the exact time of the blue jay visit.

"I was told that if a bird talks to you, it's telling you that someone died," shared the man.

Or the fisherman at Celilo Falls, some thought was epileptic, and others knew his guardian animal was the otter. The man, after enduring a fit on his scaffold, survived falling in Celilo numerous times.

"That man always fell in the falls when a person was drowning," said the man.

After transforming into an otter, he'd take the drowning person's place, and save them from drowning, according to the man. The man's guardian spirit, the Otter, kept him from drowning, he said.

Back then everything was a spirit. You possessed whatever gift you were given.

For every age, storytelling on the Warm Springs Reservation offers community camaraderie and living history embodied in oral tradition.

Cultural reverence for nature and the "circle of life" is readily revealed with Miller's quick wit, easy laugh and wisdom, and when she pauses in front of her audience and says slyly, "Have you ever wondered how a chipmunk got his stripe down his back?"

## 509-J officials waive salary increase

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoo

At last Monday's 509-J School District board meeting, due to mounting financial constraints, administrators unexpectedly offered to waive salary increases for the next fiscal year.

"The administrative group is proposing we take a zero percent salary increase next year," said Sean Gallagher, Madras High School principal.

The board, visibly touched by the offer, accepted the proposal.

"We graciously thank you for your willingness to support us during these tough economic times," said board member Steve Earnest.

The administrative group includes principals, vice principals, the superintendent, assistant superintendent and other administrators in the 509-J district.

Other important school news is that students started testing for the 2003 annual State Report Card.

Students will have the oppor-

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MHS Principal

tunity to test three times this year. Results for last year were released to parents on Jan. 31.

Based on the results, state schools are rated excellent, strong, satisfactory, low or unacceptable.

District superintendent Phil Riley reviewed probable ratings for 2002. Warm Springs Elementary, along with Madras High, Metolius Elementary and Westside Elementary rated satisfactory.

In 2001, Warm Springs Elementary rated strong.

Jefferson County Middle School dropped from a satisfactory to low rating. Riley attributed the middle school problem to low attendance.

"Attendance at JCMS is under 90 percent," he said.

## Funds up for tribal higher education

Last week U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced the administration's fiscal year 2004 budget proposal will include a five percent increase for tribal colleges and universities. The amount will be raised to \$19 million.

The president has pushed for funding increases for these programs for the past two years.

"President Bush recognizes the important role tribal colleges and universities play in American Indian communities, and that increased funds are necessary to ensure educational quality and equality for all Americans," said Paige.

"These institutions will have the same access and opportunities as other institutions of higher education across the nation," he added.

In July 2002, Pres. Bush met with tribal college presidents at the White House. He signed an executive order establishing two programs that assist eligible institutions in self-sufficiency by improving academic quality.

Story idea?  
Call Spilyay Tymoo  
553-3274

## The 2003 Lincoln's Birthday Powwow

February 6-9

Round Dance Thursday evening  
Dinner at 7 p.m.

## Simnasho Longhouse

A \$6,000 Memorial Drumming Contest, will be sponsored by the Greene family. More information, (541) 553-1953.

Hand Drum Contest, sponsored by Calvin Queahpama and Bruce Jim family. More information, 553-0422.

Chicken Dance/Round Bustle Special, sponsored by Mackie Begay. More information, 553-9230.

Dance categories: Men's and Women's Golden Age, Women's Traditional, Fancy and

Jingle. Men's Traditional, Fancy and Grass. Teen categories. Junior categories. Tiny tots.

For more information, Mackie Begay, general. E. Austin Greene, general. Jodi Orr, Queen candidates, 553-9230. Ina LaLiberte, Queen candidates, 553-0422. Sandra Greene-Sampson, 553-6619. Vendors/concession. No collect calls.

All specials will be approved by the Powwow Committee prior to the scheduled powwow.