



# Spilyay Tymoa

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## At the mill safety is main goal

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoa

Working at a lumber mill involves some risk of accident and injury to the mill workers.

Reducing this level of risk as much as possible is a main goal at the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill.

One year ago the mill initiated a program by which employees can voice their concerns about any potential safety problem at the mill.

The group that hears the concerns, and then determines how to address them, is the mill Safety Team.

The team includes 17 mill employees - management, non-management and supervisory - representing all aspects of the mill operation.

During the first 11 months of its existence, the Safety Team heard 160 reports of potential safety hazards at the mill. The team has taken action and addressed very nearly all of these reported safety concerns.

The Safety Team has been a great success in reducing risk of injury at the mill, said Bob Chandler, team chairman.

The goal of the team is for 2003 to see further progress at reducing potential hazardous situations, said Chandler.

The concerns that are aired at the weekly Safety Team meetings are very diverse. One employee may notice a loose railing, and make a report. Another person might report on a particular log-truck driver who does not comply with the speed limit. And another person might suggest that a certain area of the mill is in need a fire extinguisher.

As an example of the wide variety of things that come up at the Safety Team gatherings, the following were items brought up at the meeting held Tuesday, Feb. 11:

One team member suggested that traffic congestion signs be placed along the road in the area of The Museum at Warm Springs, the Warm Springs Plaza, and the spot along the road where the log trucks wait in the morning.

A team member pointed out that some barrels in the main mill were unlabelled.

A team member said that ice on a part of the office walkway in the morning could be dangerous.

One of the team members then alleged that during the morning, an employee at the mill had been very intoxicated. This team member said that management had responded much too slowly to the report of the alleged intoxicated employee. He said the situation posed a clear safety problem to the alleged intoxicated employee himself, as well as to the other mill employees. Team member Darrel Taylor said the matter would be addressed immediately, as required by rules of mill operation.

He said the Safety Team meeting, for which minutes are kept, was a good place to bring up this kind of important issue. With the concern brought publicly to the Safety Team, there would be full assurance that the matter would be taken care of, said Taylor.

After discussing this topic for several minutes, the team moved on to new business, and then adjourned.

## Kulongoski vows respect to tribes

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoa

Fresh in the ring, newly elected Gov. Kulongoski has pledged support to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI).

Kulongoski made the pledge during a speech at the ATNI winter conference, held last week in Portland.

His speech largely centered on tribes' rights as sovereign nations, and his comments earned him a standing ovation.

"The tribes do have special rights. They are sovereign nations," said Kulongoski.

"I deeply care about undoing well-

documented and forced concessions on tribes," he added.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs sponsored a lunch to kick off the weeklong conference, which focuses annually on issues facing tribes of the Pacific Northwest.

Kulongoski, in his first month of governorship, was invited as the keynote speaker.

Many of the attendees were Warm Springs Tribal Council and committee members. Council Chairman Olney Pitt Jr., and Louie Pitt Jr., director Warm Springs Governmental Affairs, introduced the governor. Councilwoman Bernice Mitchell gave the in-

*"Tribes must be dealt with as a separate power."*

Gov. Kulongoski

vocation prayer.

In his speech Kulongoski reviewed his prior history with the tribes. As Oregon Attorney General, he headed a task force on gaming. He helped write regulations on gaming on non-tribal land in Oregon.

He vowed his commitment to Federal Executive Order (EO) 9890, which ensures the federal government fulfills

treaty rights.

Often this includes assurance that the federal government protects resources relevant to Native American traditions. The signing of EO 9890 gained tribes the right to sue in court.

"This ability greatly enhanced the tribes' negotiating powers," Kulongoski said. "Real government to government relations can only exist if everyone is in."

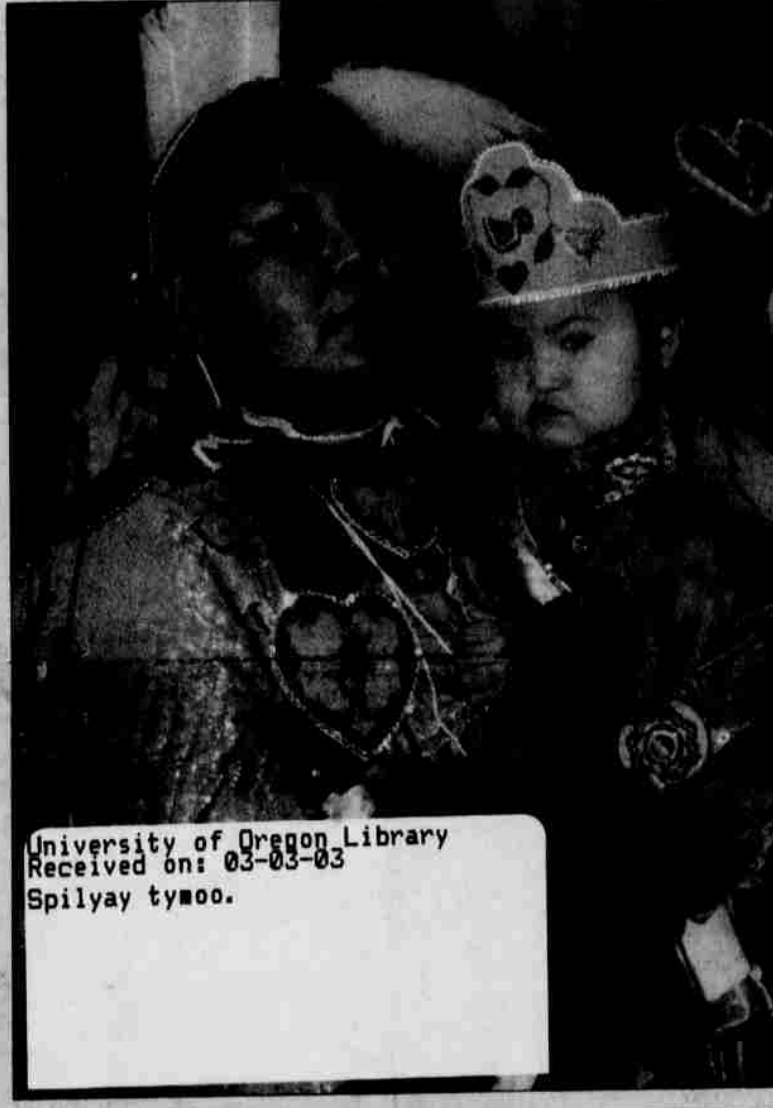
He spoke of lessons he learned before becoming governor. "Tribes must be dealt with as a separate power," he said. The crowd applauded when he pledged his dedication to the law.

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Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Simnasho community again hosted an outstanding powwow. This year was the 26th Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, and the event continues to be one of great popularity. These photographs were taken on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 8, during the Grand Entry. More photos of the powwow are on pages 4 and 5 of this newspaper.



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## Tribes call for audit of BPA

Northwest Indian tribes last week called for a full audit of the Bonneville Power Administration's fish and wildlife program. The tribes also demanded that the BPA honor its financial commitment to salmon recovery.

The actions came during the winter conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI).

In a strongly worded resolution, the 55 ATNI member tribes - including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs - condemned the BPA's proposal to cap its annual fish and wildlife budget at \$139 million, nearly half of what it had earlier committed to.

The resolution says the BPA has disregarded fisheries reports by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and has been in defiance of treaties and tribal trust responsibilities.

"This resolution demonstrates that, as Indian people, we've had it with the BPA," said Justin Gould, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRIFC), which represents the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce and the Yakama Nation.

The ATNI resolution cites several cases in which the BPA ignored fish recovery recommendations from tribes, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Northwest Power Planning Council. The resolution also says there are several instances in which the BPA breached agreements, and practiced outright deceit, said Gould.

The ATNI resolution then calls for a financial and management audit of BPA's fish and wildlife program.

## Middle school attendance a concern

Warm Springs Elementary School has made great progress at increasing attendance, but the same is not true of tribal member student attendance at Jefferson County Middle School.

"Students miss school for different reasons, but in too many cases I think some kids just don't want to come to school," said Butch David, middle school community liaison for Warm Springs.

Warm Springs students have an average daily attendance rate of about 86 percent, said middle school principal Steve Johnson. That is below the average for the other two ethnic groups at the school, he said.

The 86-percent figure is also below the attendance rate at Warm Springs Elementary School, where attendance is consistently above 90 percent. "Somehow we're dropping by at least 5 or 6 percent between the elementary

school and the middle school," said Johnson.

Part of the challenge in addressing the attendance issue is finding out why kids are missing school, said Johnson. "We need to hear from parents so we can address this."

In the meantime, said David, the middle school is working with community counseling, BestCare Services, and local juvenile coordinators to help improve attendance.

## Sad loss to community

He was a family man and a hero. That is how people who knew Derek Flowers will remember him.

"He gave his life trying to save his daughter," said Alvis Smith Jr., who worked with Derek at Warm Springs Construction. "He was a hero."

Another co-worker, Adrian Smith, said of Derek, "He always had a smile on his face. He was always ready to help you out at any time. He got along with everybody."

Smith added, "He was a real hard worker. We can never replace a guy like that."

Derek Flowers and his 3-year-old daughter Tanmya passed away on Jan. 31. That day they were on a fishing trip along the Deschutes, when a tragic accident claimed their lives.

Tanmya had been sitting in their pickup by the river. The truck somehow rolled into the water, and Derek dove in to save his daughter. An older daughter witnessed the scene, and ran to get help, but there was nothing anyone could do.

Tanmya's body was found four days later about 10 miles downstream from the area of the accident. The following day the body of Derek was found nearby the place where search teams

found Tanmya. Right to the end he proved he was a real family man, said Kanim Smith, who worked with Derek at Construction.

Alvis Jr. said, "That's the reason he worked - for his wife and kids." "We're going to miss him," said Adrian Smith.



Derek Flowers



Tanmya Flowers

## Woman facing murder charge after son found dead

Lillian Jo Blackwolf, 30, was indicted this week on a federal charge of second-degree murder.

She was arraigned on the count on Tuesday, and entered a plea of not guilty. Blackwolf remains in federal custody.

The murder allegation is in regard to the death in late January of Blackwolf's 18-month-old son, Kenneth Sconawah.

The recent charge against Blackwolf has led tribal police, the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office to further investigate the earlier deaths of two of Blackwolf's other children.

The earlier deaths happened in 1992 and 2000. The 1992 case involved Blackwolf's 3-month-old son, who apparently was strangled by a scarf while on a swing.

The 2000 case involved a 2-month old son who died of what appeared to be sudden infant death syndrome. Both of these cases are subject to an

ongoing investigation, said Bill Williams, assistant U.S. Attorney in Portland.

Blackwolf was arrested on Wednesday, Feb. 5. The events leading to her arrest began at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, when Warm Springs Police Dispatch received a 911 call requesting an ambulance at 1671 Shepard Lane.

Officers and an ambulance arrived to find Kenneth Sconawah deceased in a back bedroom, according to the police report.

An autopsy showed the child had died from a massive brain injury and severe skull fracture, according to police. Also, there were bruises over a majority of the boy's body, police said.

The FBI and tribal police investigation into the matter led to the arrest eight days later of Blackwolf.

At the arraignment hearing on Tuesday, the judge set a trial date of April 22.

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