



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Blessing opens grounds

Pi-Ume-Sha each year honors veterans. The first Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow happened in 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War.

This year the powwow again honors all veterans, with special tribute to the tribal women and men who were in the recent Iraq War. The poster for Pi-Ume-Sha 2003 includes a picture of each of these young veterans.

Pi-Ume-Sha honors veterans, but the powwow is also a celebration of tribal sovereignty. The powwow each year is held in late June. The Treaty of 1855 was signed June 25 of that year.

So this week marks the 134<sup>th</sup> year of the signing of the treaty. Pi-Ume-Sha this year is marking its 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Pi-Ume-Sha requires a lot of planning and preparation, said Louise Jackson, committee member. The effort involves the cooperation of many people.

Pi-Ume-Sha Committee Co-chairman Isaac Mitchell estimated that 50 volunteers help in preparing for the event. In addition to the volunteers, all of the Warm Springs Utility Department, Police, and Fire and Safety are involved, said Mitchell.

The preparation work at the Pi-Ume-Sha grounds began on Monday of this week, following the blessing.

The preparation work includes setting up the bleachers and the lights, the MC booth, the vendor booths, the parking area, the teepees, etc.



Wilford "Wiggy" Sooksoit, Joe Henry and Leroy Bobb were at the Pi-Ume-Sha grounds on Monday of this week, performing the blessing of the grounds. Wilbur Johnson (not pictured) was also among the drummers at the ceremony. Following the blessing, crews began setting up bleachers, lights and booths.

Through the volunteer work, Pi-Ume-Sha remains a free event for visitors, with no charge for admission or

parking. The Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow has grown each year since it first started. The powwow draws some of the top

championship dancers and drummers in the U.S. and Canada.

See **PI-UME-SHA** on page 5

## Indian coalition offers hope

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Lucinda George and Debra Kalama are working to bring hope and comfort to Indian people who have suffered emotional and physical abuse. Their work is broad in scope, and in time will benefit all the Indian tribes of Oregon.

They will also focus on urban areas where many tribal members live. George and Kalama work for the Indian Country Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Their office is located on Fifth Street in Madras. This is a central location in the state, and easily accessible by all the tribes.

Kalama is the coalition outreach coordinator, and George is the executive director. Education is a key to success in stopping domestic violence and sexual assault in Indian Country, said George. "Domestic violence and sexual assault are not part of Indian tradition," she said.

As an initial part of their work, George and Kalama will be conducting a survey across Oregon Indian Country.

The survey will determine the resources that are available to the victims, and areas where services to these people need improvement.

See **COALITION** on page 6

## Council vacancy meeting July 9

A meeting of the Simasho District has been set for the evening of Wednesday, July 9, at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at seven. A main purpose of the meeting is to determine who will fill the Simnasho District vacant seat on Tribal Council.

The vacancy happened when former Tribal Council chairman Olney Patt Jr. accepted a job in Portland.

The Tribal Constitution gives authority to Tribal Council to fill positions that come open before an election.

The district meeting will provide a chance for district members to determine a nominee to fill the vacancy.

## School district adds scholarship program

Students who keep their grades up and prepare for college can receive \$4,400 per year through a new scholarship program.

The freshmen class entering Madras High School this year will be the first graduating class to qualify for the new program.

The program is called Gear Up. Steve Rankin is the Gear Up facilitator for Jefferson County School District 509-J.

He will be working with students next school-year who are in the eighth grade at the middle school, or in their freshman year at the high school.

Rankin will advise students on how they can qualify for the Gear Up scholarship money. First, said Rankin, the students have to make the necessary grades, and also select the right courses during high school.

The criteria for qualifying for the Gear Up money are still being developed. But the program will probably be open to students who keep a minimum 2.0, said Rankin.

Another important part of qualifying, he said, is taking the necessary courses. This includes at least three years of high school math. The students must also complete two years of a foreign language, as well as the necessary English, science and other core courses.

Part of Rankin's job as facilitator will be advising students on what they need to do to prepare for college, and thereby gain access to the Gear Up scholarship money.

A main goal of the program, he said, is to identify and help students who have a strong potential of going to college, but who may be at risk of missing

*Jefferson County School District 509-J is one of 16 districts in the state that qualify for use of the \$6.25 million in funding for Gear Up scholarships.*

the opportunity. In the 509-J district, the rate at which tribal member students attend college is lower than the rate for the other two main ethnic groups in the district; so Gear Up will be especially well suited for helping tribal member middle and high school students, said Rankin.

Some of the benefits of participating in Gear Up include the following:

- Tutoring in math and English, and mentoring to achieve success.

- Assistance in planning high school classes and staying on track.

- Test preparation for college entrance exams.

- One on one, and family meetings with the facilitator.

A total of \$6.25 million has been allocated statewide for Gear Up. Jefferson County School District 509-J is one of 16 districts in the state that qualify for use of the money for scholarships.

An orientation session on Gear Up is set for 5:30 to 7 p.m., August 25, at the middle school.

This will be for the students who will be entering the eighth grade or their freshman year, and the parents of the students.

Anyone wishing more information on Gear Up can contact Rankin at 475-6716.

## Highway project to replace Shitike overflow bridge

Plan is to keep both lanes of traffic open

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Work is starting on a road project that will replace the Shitike Creek overflow bridge, which is structurally unsound. Road crews will be at work into August.

The \$532,000 project is being funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

ODOT intends to keep both highway lanes of traffic open during the bridge replacement work, said Glenn Carpenter, general manager of Warm Springs Construction.

The work will involve taking out the Shitike Creek overflow bridge, located in the area where the log trucks turn off the highway toward the mill.

This is also the area of the intersection of the highway and East Tenino Road. The bridge project will include widening the highway, and adding a turn



As the ODOT sign along the highway indicates, the overflow bridge project will take about three months, and will cost about \$532,000.

lane onto East Tenino, which leads to south Warm Springs.

The overflow bridge will be replaced by two 5-foot diameter culverts.

The ODOT contract for the project

went to Accord Construction of Portland. The company will be employing some tribal members, said Carpenter.

Warm Springs Construction also has the flagging contract for the job, he

said. The initial plans for the overflow bridge replacement began about a year ago. The project then went to bid in March, and work began this week.

The overflow bridge is located downstream from the Highway 26 Shitike Creek Bridge. In other recent construction news:

### Culpus Bridge project

Plans are moving forward on the Culpus Bridge replacement project. Most recently, the BIA released its finding of no significant (environmental) impact for this project.

The document is available by contacting Gerald Henrikson, BIA environmental coordinator, at 553-2421.

The Culpus Bridge project should go out to bid this summer, and the actual work should begin next spring.

Construction of the new bridge will be timed to avoid any potential harm to fish runs in the Warm Springs River.

Plans were not ready in time to meet the fish window this year, so the work will commence next year, said Carpenter.

Construction of the new bridge, cost estimate of \$1.2 million, will be the final phase of the Webster Flat Road project.

Funding for the new bridge comes from the BIA. The new structure will be located upstream from the existing Culpus Bridge.

The existing bridge will not be removed, and instead will be designed for use by pedestrians and bicyclists.

When the new bridge is finished, Webster Flat Road will provide important new access to Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

The existing bridge, built in 1957, is very narrow, and can accommodate only a single lane of traffic. The proposed new bridge would have two lanes, and would be at a slightly higher elevation above the river, to reduce damage during flooding.