



Spilyay Tymoo

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She might stop but she won't quit

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

Years ago Char Herkshan was seriously injured in a car wreck.

Her short term memory was obliterated. After much work and rehabilitation the first memories that started returning were things her grandmother and mother had taught her.

It was that accident which helped trigger a chain of events that would lead to the eventual funding of Camp Sapsikwat, a native culture school.

"Our children are institutionalized from early on, which is not the way it's supposed to be," she says. "Children are in daycare at two weeks old now. That's so sad."

It's all about choices.

Kids decide at the beginning of the week what sort of cultural project they want to do: making a bow and arrows, a dreamcatcher, moccasins, necklaces.

"We're giving them a little taste of making choices," she goes on, "that is so important."

In this camp the projects are all about balance. If a boy decides he's going to make a bow and arrows, the important part is how he holds it, bends it, ties it and, in the end, whether the arrow strikes the target.

These are the things which will give him the tools he needs to confront the modern world.

"Modern society is very challenging," Char Herkshan admits, as she confronts more questions. "How do



Arthur Mitchell clips a branch to make a bow and arrow, as his friends look on.

Bing Bingham/Spilyay

we, as Native people, continue to teach our morals, our ethics, our values, our standards and our sovereignty?"

This is the last year of Camp Sapsikwat. The funding has run out.

"In a few years money will come again," she acknowledges, "the Creator always blesses us that way and the camp will pick up with a different name."

While new funding sources are being located, Herkshan will concentrate on keeping up other social obligations,

like the Winter Night Social Club at the Simnasho-Loñg Houe.

"I'd like to teach all the things that my mother and grandmothers taught me," she continues. "I'd like for our children to have that on the reservation."

She wants to show young people to bring food to a gathering, cook it with love and share it. "It's like they can't get enough, they keep eating and eating."

So for now Herkshan is quitting Camp Sapsikwat, but that doesn't mean she's stopping what she does.

And in her quiet moments, she'll remember how her grandmother would make bread and talk quietly with her when she was home from boarding school.

But, mostly, she'll recall her grandmothers words: "Never let them put that light out that's in you."

Smith awarded for fish advocacy

Claude Smith Sr. has lived a long life of dedication to traditional fisheries, their restoration and protection.

He is a leader of his people, the Wasco Tribe of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

For more than 20 years Smith has represented his people on the tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee.

He fished at Celilo Falls, Klickitat Falls, Eagle Creek and many other usual and accustomed fishing places of the Wasco people.

He has traveled all over the U.S. educating policymakers about fisheries and their protection.

Recently, the **Claude Smith Sr.**

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), representing the four treaty tribes of the Columbia, recognized Smith with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Smith received this award "for a life-long commitment and significant contributions toward promoting partnerships, fostering understanding, and providing bold leadership in efforts to restore and protect Columbia River salmon," said Olney Patt Jr., CRITFC executive director.

Smith received the award at the annual Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Gala at the Governor Hotel in Portland.

"This year's award recipients represent the best in community activism and public involvement," said Patt. "They are all truly Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum. They are all salmon people."

Smith was one of seven people who received a Spirit of the Salmon award at the recent CRITFC event. Other award recipients are:

Carol Craig of the Yakama Nation. She received the Education Award, which goes to an individual or institution that has made a significant contribution to the widespread education of the public about salmon and the role they play in the lives of all creatures in the Pacific Northwest.

Craig is the public information officer for the Yakama Nation Fisheries and Wildlife Program. Prior to taking her post in Toppenish, Wash., she worked in the CRITFC public information office.

In each job, Craig demonstrated the ability to reduce complex issues and best science to plain talk, and she placed a special priority on teaching youth about the culture and the rights of Indian tribes, said Patt.

The city of Selah, Wash., also received recognition. At the awards dinner the city was represented by mayor Bob Jones. The city received the Public Partnership Award.

This award goes to a local government that has taken a significant community leadership role in support of salmon restoration.

Selah was the first local government in the Yakima Valley to show a willingness and a desire to work hand in hand with the Yakama Nation on fish recovery and fish restoration.

In their first joint effort, Selah officials supported the tribe in its effort to modify a Washington Department of Transportation project to create a side channel in the Selah gap to benefit anadromous fish.

See SMITH on page 6

Rubbings show lost petroglyphs

Petroglyphs are protected by federal law from desecration. Rubbing a petroglyph can damage the image, and for this reason is prohibited by law.

But in some cases a petroglyph rubbing can be a good thing; and such is the case of five rubbings that arrived recently at the Museum at Warm Springs.

Four of the rubbings are of petroglyphs that no longer exist, due to flooding by The Dalles dam. And the fifth is of a famous petroglyph - *She Who Watches* - when the image was in a more pristine condition.

The rubbings were made in the 1950s or early 1960s.

Over the course of years they made their way to the Mt. Hood Community College.

Two years ago they were almost thrown away, but a geography instructor, Chris Gorsek, retrieved them, and later used them as part of his teaching curriculum.

Recently, tribal archaeologist Joseph Sheppard was visiting Mt. Hood Community College, and happened to notice the petroglyph rubbings.

Sheppard realized the significance of the rubbings, and suggested that they be turned over to the tribes, an idea that Gorsek happily agreed to.

The images are now in safe-keeping at the museum, but not on display.

By displaying the rubbings, people may be encouraged to go out and make some petroglyph rubbings of their own, which is prohibited by law, said Carol Leone, museum director.

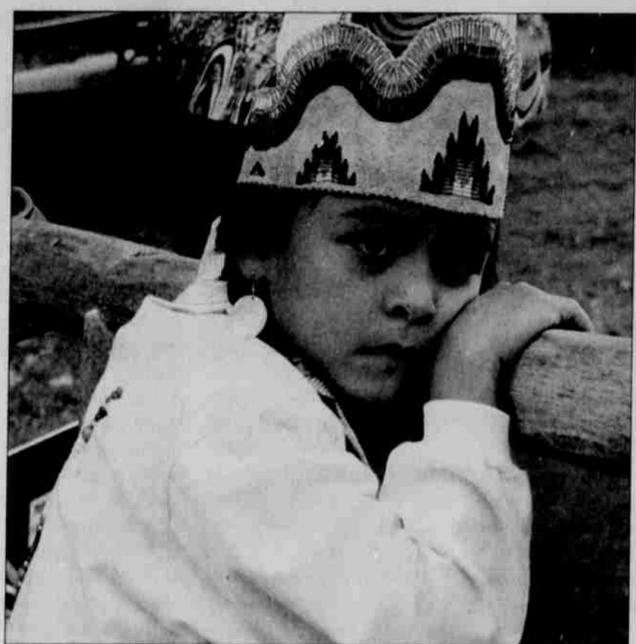


Photo by Rachel Tallmadge for the Spilyay

Revonne Johnson takes a break from the activities at the recent Huckleberry Harvest, held at the Museum at Warm Springs and at Kah-Nee-Tah High Desert Resort and Casino.

The Huckleberry Harvest is the museum's principal fundraiser during the year.

This year the fund-raiser drew a large crowd, including many new faces from outside the area.

A number of items - ranging from fine arts and bronze sculptures to vacation trips - were sold during silent and oral auctions.

The bidding was lively during the sales.

Locals helping fight distant fires

Fire season brings a lot of activity to local agencies and enterprises, even when no wildfire is burning on the reservation.

Crews from BIA Fire Management and the tribal enterprise GeoVisions, for instance, have been traveling to wildfires in Oregon and other states.

Three people from Fire Management left this week to help on the Kelsey fire near Diamond Lake. And the 20 members of the Warm Springs hotshot crew are on the Faun Creek fire near Keller, Wash.

The hotshot team also helped fight the Davis Fire near LaPine, and worked on two separate fires earlier

this summer near Tuscon, Ariz.

As of early this week, there had been no major wildfire on the reservation so far this summer. But there is always the possibility, said Ken Lydy, assistant fire management officer at Warm Springs Fire Management.

"We've already shut down campfires on the reservation at the direction of Natural Resources manager," said Lydy. Because of the fuel conditions on the ground, he said, the fire danger on the reservation is extreme.

The mobile command center

Fire management personnel are not the only ones traveling to fires in distant locations. The same is also true of

the GeoVisions team.

GeoVisions, managed by Jim Crocker of the tribal Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office, started in the spring of last year. The tribal enterprise works in the field of high technology mapping.

The GeoVisions crew - Marissa Stradley and Easton Aguilar - returned just recently from the Kinishba fire located on the Fort Apache Reservation in Arizona. They were there for 14 days providing the mapping data to the fire agencies. GeoVisions is based in the high-tech mobile command center trailer. The GeoVisions team also worked at the Davis fire just before the assignment to Kinishba.