



Spilyay Tymoo

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Census entering second phase

The Tribal Census Team reports that they are moving into the second phase of the Tribal Census, with a goal of surveying 80 percent of local households before the New Year, and counting all residents by early 2004.

By the end of this week, approximately 60 percent of local households will be surveyed. Off-reservation tribal members are also being contacted.

To help accomplish the targets, major employers on the reservation are cooperating by scheduling interviews with their member employees and resident non-members.

Because of budget constraints, the number of census enumerators, or surveyors, will need to be reduced.

Currently, the enumerators are Mayann Aguilar, Levi Bobb, Carla Dean Caldera, Jose Calica, Marena Florez, Hamilton Greeley, James Greeley, Lonnie Jack, Gloria Mitchell, Allen Mitchell, James Moran, Arlene Wewa and Emily Yazzie.

The above people are the only authorized surveyors, along with Vital Statistics staff.

Additional funding is being pursued to allow completion of the process in a timely manner.

The census team wishes to thank the community, enterprises, agencies and media for their continued support. Please call Vital Statistics at 553-3252 to arrange an interview.

Tribes propose virtual college

BEND, Ore. (AP) — Indian tribes are talking about creating a virtual college that combines resources at reservations around the state.

The proposal, the nation's first, also would allow reservation residents access to college courses at other schools.

Federal funding would help pay for video or Web-based courses to link reservation classrooms or individual students.

A main goal would be to train and educate residents for reservation industries, said Wendell Jim, general manager of education for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Tribal education officials say the next step is approval from the nine tribal councils in Oregon.

Some courses might be created specifically to meet the needs of the reservations, including topics such as natural resources or casino management, said Clint Jacks, the Oregon State University extension agent for Jefferson County and Warm Springs.

Tribal experts could also teach courses in native languages, forestry and other topics that could be distributed to other campuses.

Another focus likely would be expanding the remedial education program to help prepare students for degree programs.

"One of our experiences is that folks need to increase their math and writing skills to be successful in a bachelor's or associate of arts program," Jacks said.

Although many reservations, including Warm Springs, already have some local higher education programs, the virtual college would expand education options.

Many reservation residents can't leave for school because they are already working locally, Jim said.

Warm Springs, like some other reservations, is far from many college campuses.

"We're trying to bring opportunity here," he said. The program probably would start as a two-year college and be linked with four-year institutions.

Oregonian series sparks a response

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

The recent series of Oregonian newspaper articles on Warm Springs was a topic of discussion at the recent meeting of the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors.

Urbana Ross, of the tribes' Education Committee, and Myra Johnson, director of Culture and Heritage, gave their input to the board.

Johnson reported that she had heard Native kids in the high school were "really unhappy [about the Oregonian articles] to the point where they were cussing mad."

She counseled the school board to "be aware and sensitive" to the feelings of young Native Americans during a difficult time.

"Those articles were written without the knowledge of our young people," she said, "and so many times we forget our young people."

Ross acknowledged the "sensitivity" issue. "I'm asking the school principals to be sensitive with our students and communicate with the teachers about the recent articles," she said.

"Give them a chance to talk about the articles and the impact their having on our students and the Warm Springs

community."

She explained later that she would like to see students and parents rewarded for doing the right thing.

"If they are attending school and doing the things they should be," she says, "they're helping turn that belief around that the [Warm Springs] community is a dangerous place."

Urbana Ross brought up several other points to the school board:

— She recommended a tribal representative be on the search committee for the new superintendent.

"I think they need a Tribal Council chairman as a representative from

Warm Springs on that search so there is tribal input."

— After the new superintendent is in place, "What types of activities are going to fall through the cracks for our Native American students and the program provided to our students? I'm concerned about that."

— Madras High is on the watch list for high number of expulsions. Because of the high number of native kids involved, she expressed her concern that school authorities find themselves developing a "zero tolerance" level for Warm Springs kids.

Please see SCHOOL on page 8

Basketball team headed for Iowa

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

Jaylyn Suppah is excited and worried about the upcoming invitational Sacajawea Tournament.

She's excited because the team will be facing some of the top players in the nation, and there will be some national level basketball talent scouts looking for new blood.

She's worried because she's injured and might not get off the bench.

"I don't know if I'm going to get to play...that bums me out," she says.

Jaylyn Suppah has a dream. She wants to go pro: Women's National Basketball Association.

"I'd have liked to be the first Indian in the WNBA, but I hear there's going to be an Indian in there pretty soon," she says.

That's OK, second is fine. She just wants to play pro ball.

She was ten years old when she realized she was serious about basketball. Her uncle started his team and he was serious about his game.

"He was really serious about [basketball], so it made me serious about it," she says.

Basketball runs in the family.

"My grandpa played basketball all his life, all my aunts and uncles played and all my cousins play...it's something my family's done," she continues. "I don't think any of them have ever set goals like I have...like I wanna do."

And the Sacajawea Tournament — in Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 17-21 — will be a good place for Jaylyn, and other tribal members, Susan Ahern and Carina "Spud" Miller, to test themselves.

"This tournament is against some of the best talent in the nation," says girls basketball coach Bruce Reece, "it's one of those invitational tournaments that will let you know if you're able to play with that kind of talent or if you're just an average ball club."



Jaylyn Suppah

Bing Bingham/Spilyay

Reece isn't a betting man, but he wouldn't be surprised if the Madras High girls basketball team is better than "just average."

"The talent is still here and the girls know how to work hard and they know how to play basketball," he says, "I expect us to do very well."

Meanwhile the team members are spending their extra time before the tournament on brushing up their skills.

"I need to work on my ball handling," says Susan Ahern, "just touching the basketball as much as [I] can."

And playing or not, Jaylyn Suppah is ready to go. If she plays, she'll do her best in front of the scouts. If not, she'll find another way to stay on the court, out in front of the scouts and hard at it until she reaches her dream.

Community mourns loss of girl



Cindy Gilbert

The Warm Springs community was greatly saddened to learn of the death of young tribal member Cindy Gilbert Sohappy.

Ms. Gilbert Sohappy passed away on Saturday, Dec. 6. She was 16 years old.

Ms. Gilbert Sohappy was known for her involvement in school activities, including Junior ROTC, basketball and track.

Through her ROTC involvement, Ms. Gilbert Sohappy took part in many parades in the community. She marched in the Veterans Day and Pi-Ume-Sha parades.

At school she was a good student, and loved by school staff and teachers.

She worked with senior citizens. She loved music, and spending time with family and friends.

Ms. Gilbert Sohappy grew up in warm springs, and attended local schools.

Recently, she transferred to Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

The cause of death of Ms. Gilbert Sohappy is being investigated. This week, services were being held at the home of Lola Sohappy, grandmother of Ms. Gilbert.

Night Out is Thursday

The Warm Springs Alcohol Prevention Program, and the Youth Development and Recreation departments are proudly sponsoring the Third Annual Christmas Indian Night Out. The event is set for Thursday Dec. 11 at the Agency Longhouse.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the powwow and games to begin at 7 p.m. Random drawings throughout the evening will be held for great gifts and prizes. These Departments cordially invite community members to come and participate, eat and dance during the powwow.