



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Culture Enrichment Club starts young

By D. "Bing" Bingham  
Spilyay Tymoo

Perhaps more than any other school in the state, Madras High School is known for the diversity of its cultures. That's why the high school Culture Enrichment Club is so important.

"To me culture is a really big thing in school," says Paul Scott, tribal member and president of the club. "We're the only school, I think anywhere, that has it. Not even colleges have this variety of culture."

He continues, "You're walking down

the hall and you see groups of people and they don't talk to anyone else besides their group. I don't like that. It makes me uncomfortable when I come to school."

A few years ago there was a cultural diversity program that started in the Jefferson County Middle School.

"We saw a separation of the Native, Hispanic and Whites. They were in their own little groups," says Foster J. Kalama, staff advisor to the Cultural Enrichment Club. "They were coming against each other in gang activity."

Kalama rounded up some native kids who were interested in the flute. Martha Rios gathered some hispanic dancers, and Jackie Koga applied her music skills. The first year together was rocky, but everyone persisted.

"All of a sudden the kids started becoming interested in the dances they were doing," Kalama says.

Before long young dancers were pulling others out of the audience to dance. Soon young dancers were asking to dance with different groups. The kids were mixing themselves.

"They were laughing and holding hands and enjoying each other's dance and company. It actually took us to a different level for our kids," Kalama says.

The dancers got so good at it they performed in Portland at a conference for school administrators from around Oregon. The kids enjoyed themselves when they weren't performing by going to the movies, and to Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

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## Tribes to review youth programs

(AP) - Tribal officials are proposing a sweeping review of child safety programs, in response to the series in The Oregonian that detailed the deaths of children and teenagers from the reservation.

"We're confident we can deal appropriately with these problems and solve many of them, if not most of them," said Charles Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer of Warm Springs. "We're committed to doing that for the sake of our community. . . . I can't imagine there is anyone in our community who does not want to see the very best for our kids."

The Oregonian reported that high rates of traffic deaths, lapses by the reservation's child welfare system and alcohol and drug abuse contributed to a Warm Springs child death rate that is nearly twice that of Native American youths nationwide.

Jackson and Willy Fuentes, the tribes' Chief Operations Officer, said the tribes have been addressing many of the problems for decades.

"We are in fact doing something here," Jackson said. "We are not just sitting around neglecting the needs of our kids."

Jackson and Fuentes said the proposals include increased enforcement of seat belt and child safety seat laws. Fuentes said tribal police have been ordered this week to include seat belt checks as part of recently revived sobriety checkpoints.

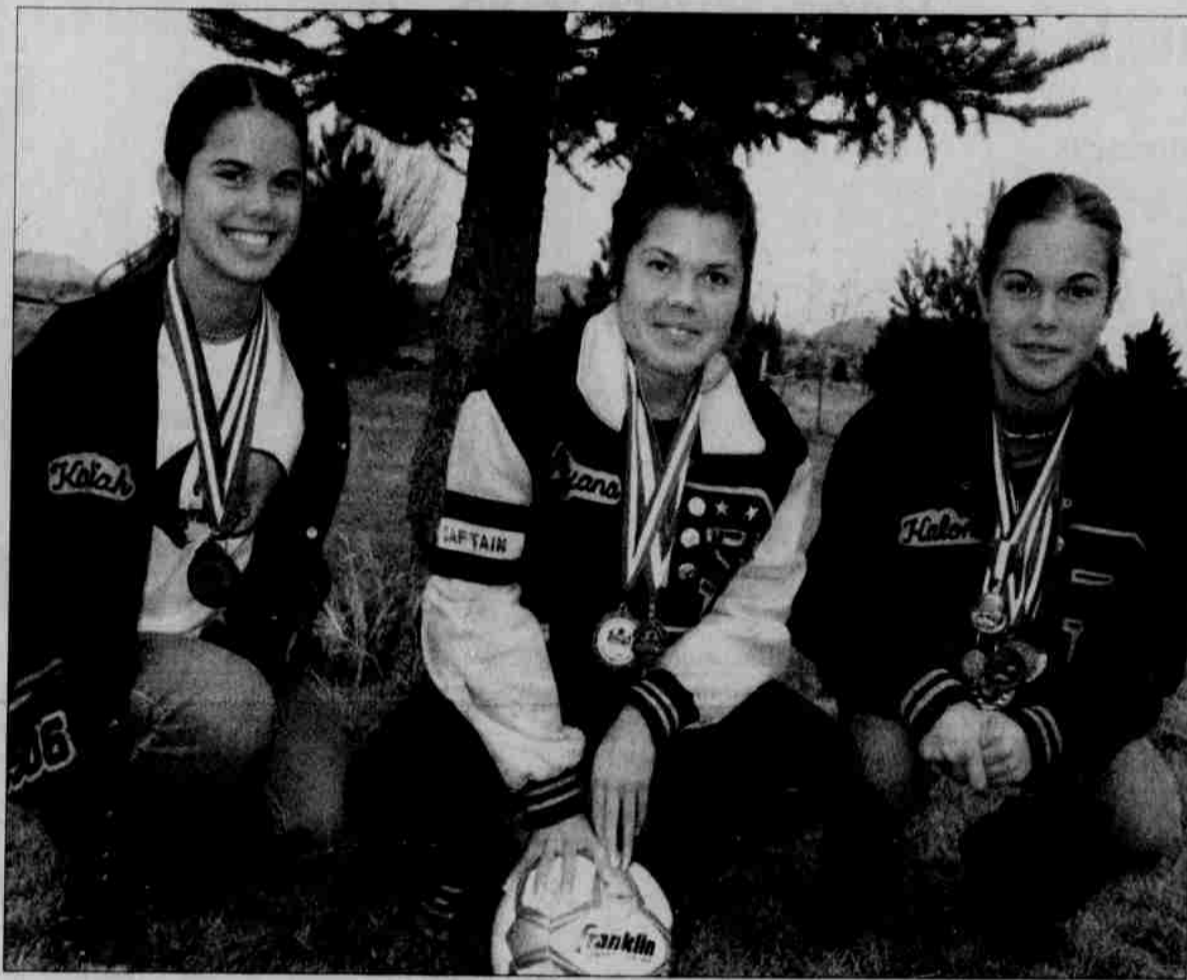
They will also recommend the review of all Warm Springs deaths, including those dating to the late 1980s, to seek ways to reduce mortality rates, as well as more support for community members and spiritual leaders who work to help children and families.

Jackson and Fuentes will also propose an examination of existing child welfare policies.

The tribes' child welfare officials struggle to help families fractured by poverty and substance abuse.

See CHILD WELFARE on 14

## Sisters pursuing their dreams



The Jackson sisters of Redmond High School: Kalliah, Aiyana and Halona (from left).  
Bing Bingham/Spilyay

By D. "Bing" Bingham  
Spilyay Tymoo

Sitting across the table from the Jackson sisters is like being next to a whirlwind. One moment they're so busy chatting in their own sisterly language they barely notice anyone else in the room. The next, they speak clearly and precisely about what's important to them and where they want to go. When they're finished, they're happily back to their sisterly chat and bustling about their day.

It would be easy to see these young stand-outs as group. They play soccer on the same team at Redmond High School. They sing. They're active in church.

Yet each is distinctly different. Kalliah is the middle sister and she's a dreamer.

"I want to go all the way with my art," she says. "It's the thing I most enjoy."

She wants to sing, dance and play electric guitar. When she talks about what she wants to do more than anything, her eyes shine: "I just want to go up on stage and bust it out!"

She describes herself as a musical eclectic.

"I'm looking at R&B, rock, blues and pop. I like all kinds of music," she says. "That's what I want to do for my first demo CD."

Kalliah is quick to credit her hero, Jesus Christ, for her gift.

"His music is the strongest I can sing, and that's when I mostly get into it," she goes on. "I'll hit notes I could never hit before."

Aiyana, the eldest sister, is the intense one.

She enjoys singing too, but her tastes run to classical music, opera and foreign languages.

"I enjoy pop," she says, "but I like singing classical better."

As much as she enjoys singing, she admits it's probably not a career option.

"Honestly, I like performing with my little sisters better than I like performing by myself," she admits.

What excites her is sports, particularly soccer. She is also interested in medicine. Combining them would be the best of all worlds.

"As an athlete myself, I know how

important it is - having gotten hurt before - to be injured and not able to play," she says.

"I know how important it is to recover as quickly as possible and, maybe, go back into play, but continuing your recovery process and keeping the physical therapy going and stretching to make sure you don't get re-injured."

She has an application in for Whitman College in Spokane, one of the top sports medicine schools in the country. And she has her eye on Europe as well.

"American soccer stinks," she admits. European soccer, she says, is really happening.

"It blows me out of the water. Some of the best players in the world on the field trying to out-smart and out physically perform each other."

She doesn't doubt that eventually American soccer will be operating at the European level - but for now it's not.

Her intensity shows on the local soccer fields:

See SISTERS on page 14

## Boys and Girls Club to re-open in February

The Boys and Girls Club Warm Springs Branch is set to open in early February. The club will be housed at the music room of the Warm Springs Elementary School.

"We're very happy to be able to partner with the elementary school," said Gayle Rodgers, director of Warm Springs Social Services.

Earlier this month the Warm Springs Housing Authority contributed \$60,000 to the Warm Springs branch of the Boys and Girls Club. This gen-

erous contribution, to last one year, will help the club resume activities in February, said Rodgers.

The Housing Authority, said Rodgers, "really stepped up to the plate and did the best thing for the community."

The club also receives \$30,000 from the national office of the Boys and Girls Club.

There are currently two part-time positions, and one full-time director position open at the Warm Springs Boys

and Girls Club. Applications are available through the Personnel Office.

The Boys and Girls operated for its first couple of years in Warm Springs at the Community Center. The club closed this fall, but is now back on track for re-opening, said Rodgers.

When the club resumes in February, the focus will be on kids in kindergarten through fourth grade. This is why the elementary school is the ideal location for the club, he said.

The school has an enrollment of

about 350 students, and that will be the target number the Boys and Girls Club hopes to serve, said Rodgers.

"We don't know how many kids we'll get," he said. "If we have fun and exciting programs, then we'll have a lot of kids."

Having the club housed at the elementary school is common for Boys and Girls clubs. The one in Madras, for instance, is at an elementary school. "It's a good fit," said Rodgers.

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## \$601,000 budget cut next year

The Confederated Tribes are planning to implement a budget reduction totaling \$601,000 for 2004. The cuts are expected to be made by mid January.

A majority of the reduction - 62 percent, or roughly \$400,000 - is to come from tribal operations, under the Chief Operations Officer. Another 23 percent is to come from the Secretary-Treasurer and Administrative Support Services.

Nine percent is to come from Tribal Council, committees and the courts; and 7 percent from general and administration.

The Tribal Council resolution says these reductions are to be in effect by Jan. 19, 2004.

If all necessary reductions are not made by that time, then the Secretary-Treasurer is directed to implement the reductions.

See BUDGET on page 11

## Chemawa staff placed on leave

SALEM, Ore. (AP) - Staff members at the Chemawa Indian federal boarding school have been placed on administrative leave pending a criminal investigation into the recent death of a teenager at the Salem campus, school officials said.

The Oregonian newspaper reported over the weekend that officials at the school "will hold people accountable" for the death. School board chair Willie Templeton told the newspaper that he has not seen investigative reports, and could not discuss the specific circumstances surrounding the Dec. 6 death of Cindy Gilbert Sohappy.

The 16-year-old had been placed in one of the school's holding cells. The cells reportedly are for unruly or intoxicated students.

"This is a serious matter," said Templeton, who is director of Native Student Service at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. "Something needs to be done. But we need an objective, outside person to come in and look at it, and I think that is what is happening now."

Friends said Sohappy had been put in the holding cell because she was intoxicated. In the two weeks since her death, neither the Chemawa administrators who were responsible for Sohappy's safekeeping nor the federal investigators looking into her death have offered any explanation of what killed her.

As early as 1990, public safety officials expressed concern about the Chemawa cells.

In May of that year, Salem Fire Department officials ordered Chemawa to stop locking up students in the four-cell facility, which had opened the previous year. Salem officials wanted the locks removed from the cells, so the students could leave freely in case of emergencies.

Chemawa officials at the time disputed the city's jurisdiction because the school is on federal property but said they would make improvements to bring the facility up to code, and promised to install fire alarms and sprinklers.

Jan Bayless, the Salem fire marshal, said Friday that she had reviewed the records, and that the school had modified the cells to address the issues.

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