

Powwows have changed over the years

By Sid Miller
Spilyay Publisher Emeritus

People will be on the road again for another powwow season. There are a lot of bucks that can be made following the powwow trail. One has to be consistent in winning dance contests. Some people almost make their way from powwow to powwow by winning a contest wherever they go.

And again it can be a pretty tough way and costly if one doesn't win at all. People even become stranded in different places and have to make loans to get home. It is up to the individual if he wants to make the powwows or not. Chances are they will go to the powwow anyway even if they know they don't stand a chance of winning. The contests range from all age groups right down to the tiny tots on up the senior citizen group.

The various categories for the ladies go from fancy dancing, the jingle dress dance, the round dance, shawl dance and the traditional groups, team dancing. The men's contests range for all age groups for fancy dancing, the grass dance, the traditional, team dancing, owl dance and the rabbit dance. Can't forget the big crowd pleaser, "The Wanna Be" dance contest at Pi-Ume-Sha. There is the fluffy dance contest and just a few enter the event and most of them shouldn't be in the fluffy category. There should be a weight limit to enter. During the fluffy contest you see all the fluffy guys sitting in the bleachers. Maybe they are so fluffy they think they can't last one dance. Just too much "man."

Well anyway it's just an added event for entertainment for the powwow fans. I can remember back to when I was just a cute little tyke, all the powwows were completely different. There were no cash contests of any kind. The powwows were mainly social affairs, where all the tribesmen got together and had a grand ol' time. This is where a lot of people did some "Chash-Wi-Cha," and it was a great honor to be able to sing and drum for the dances.

All partner dances were set for ladies choice, to choose a man for a partner to dance with. These dances were the owl dance and the rabbit dance. They even had a skip dance where two ladies would go skipping around the arena and a man would get between them and skip along. Of course, these were all for fun and for everyone to enjoy themselves.

Today "money talks." Before anyone does anything they want pay. Another thing that kills the interest in the powwow is everyone has to stand to honor this or that and that's all a "bunch of bunk." We go to the powwows to watch and enjoy the dancing and that's the way it should be. The only time people should stand is during the seventh inning stretch.

And that's all I got to say about that.

Ahh-na-chi-toon!

Toe Ness

There was this guy limping down the road, and one guy said to the other, "hey! Look at that guy, "not even," yikes!

Spilyay Speaks

Great home

I want to publicly thank the Warm Springs Credit Department and Palm Harbor Homes of Redmond for helping to make my dream of owning a home become a reality.

From the moment that I stepped onto the lot at Palm Harbor Village, I was treated as a member of their family. Sunny Allen, Teashya Padbury, Steve Bray, Beverly Abbot and the entire gang were great fun to work with. They understood that I was making an important decision in my life, and they did everything they could to make me feel comfortable with my decisions.

I first stopped at Palm Harbor just to dream, honestly. I wanted to look at homes to give me something to shoot for in the future. Sunny pulled me aside and she explained to me that it wasn't impossible to own my own home right now. She helped me from beginning to end, filing for my credit report, applying for a home loan with the tribes, etc.

It wasn't easy to get into my new home, but Palm Harbor was there for me through it all - even if all I needed was a little reassurance.

Now I feel truly blessed. Sometimes I need to pinch myself to make sure that I'm awake and sitting in my own living room. I have trouble sleeping at night because I feel like I'm sleeping in somebody else's home - and that's a good thing.

I know that this is the miracle of being a Native American; these are the blessings that come when we listen to our elders and work hard; this dream never would have come true for me if had never given up my old ways.

Thanks to the Warm Springs Credit Department; you've been wonderful, Joann; thank you to Chikar; thanks to Kevin and the gang; and to General Electric for the superior security system. Thanks to my family - Myrna, Travis, Amy, Michael, Kendall - for the security cameras.

If you're looking to buy your own home, I would highly recommend Palm Harbor. If you want to stop by and see what my home looks like, give me a call.

Sincerely, Frederick Duran
Bobb Skw'lapt

Thrift Shop

The Warm Springs Thrift Shop is asking for donations of winter clothes; coats, snowsuits, gloves, scarves, hankies, legwarmers, thermals, hooded sweaters, boots, etc. Bring the items to 2107 Wasco St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. It would also be helpful if they were washed.

In February we will be having a raffle drawing for a Valentines basket. When you come into the store you will win a free ticket for each \$10 you spend in the Thrift Shop. The drawing will be held Feb. 14. Need to be present to win.

Thank you, Warm Springs, Simnasho, High Lookee Lodge, Simnasho Community Church, for all your donations. It is greatly appreciated. For more information on the donations, please call Rena at 553-2287. Sincerely,

Rena Suppah-Gomez.

Truancy board

We need more interested community members for the Community Truancy Board Meetings. It is very important to make sure our children get their education and this is one way to help them out. We meet every third Wednesday at 6-8 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. We have had one family come through the Truancy Board with positive results for the student. Butch David informs me that we have one family maybe two families to go through the community truancy board. So Please get involved.

Flossie Wolfe

Doing well

Hello to all, I would like to let friends and family know that Nate is doing well and says hi to all. If you are interested in writ-

ing letters of encouragement and letters to just say hi, here is his address; Nathan Berry #T.57502,E1-128, P.O. Box 3300, Wasco, CA.93280. Thanks to all who have shown your support for my son. God bless you all. Bobbi Jo Berry

Fix lights

We have burnt out streetlights within the Simnasho Community. Something should be done to correct this, and the problem has been brought to the attention of local law enforcement. What are all of you waiting for, someone to get hit by a moving vehicle and possibly killed before the lights are repaired? Don't wait for a loss of life before we get our streetlights fixed. Thank you, Phillip G. David

Appreciated

Thank you Lyle Katchia for plowing my driveway along with everyone else at Sunnyside. It was greatly appreciated.

Marcella Hall

Thank you

Soon it will be four months since my daughter passed away, and I still find it hard to sit down and write a letter about her. I want to thank everyone that came to be support to my family and me during the funeral of my youngest daughter. Heart felt thanks to Wilson Wewa and Wilford Jim for officiating, the drummers, Rosie Johnson for assisting me with the dressing, Geri Jim for making the dresses, the cooks, Candace Smith, Barbara Jim, Susie Moody, Minnie Johnson, all the kitchen helpers. Cy Jim for his fish, Geri for the dried fish, Auntie Evelyn and Rose for the roots, berries, eels, Joann Smith for the apples, Everett and Phyllis Griffith for Kool-aid, flour, potatoes and things. Thanks to the Moses Family for bringing my daughter's boyfriend Adrian over for the funeral. Thanks to the friends who traveled from Wellpinit and Yakama to pay their respects. Thanks to all the

people that called and wanted to be here but couldn't make it.

Thanks to everyone that came to pay their respects, they were like medicine to me. Thanks to my big brothers Samual and Larry being near by to help me out. Thanks to my daughter Kim for giving her furniture to Alvin since he gave his up. Thanks to Solo and Martha for the beautiful couch and Kim for giving me her dining room set.

I don't have the names of everyone who brought me things like dish sets, pots and pans, linens, coffee makers. A table and chairs from Morningstar. Everything that was given to me was like gifts from the heart. If I failed to mention your name please excuse me. I also extend my deepest sympathy to all the families who lost their loved ones recently, each person was a big loss to our people.

Sincerely, Ramona Starr Schuster. P.S. Who gave the newspaper the right to come in and put us in the newspaper? I thought it was insensitive to those who lost their loved one. No one approached me and asked if they could put that picture on the front page as we were on our way to the burial grounds with my daughter. That was part of a traditional funeral and that wasn't right.

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Apologies

I am sorry for my poor judgment. I was wrong thinking I was not that intoxicated that night. I thought I was able to drive but I was wrong. I could have hurt myself or someone. This won't happen again. EAD

I, Stephanie Belgard, apologize to the Housing Department for my actions that happened on the night of Oct. 8. S. Belgard.

My behavior on the night of Dec. 14 at 11:30 p.m. was not respectable to my family, friends and the Confederated Tribes. My apologies to everybody.

Floyd C. Frank Sr.

Community Action Team looks forward to new year

By Shawnell Surplus
Community Advocate

As part of our New Years resolution, the Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) is working to keep the community updated on our work as well as the poverty in our region.

The WSCAT has existed since March 2002. WSCAT is a member of the Central Oregon Partnership, and is a local, grass-roots organization that exists to help reduce poverty and its effects in Warm Springs and in the greater Central Oregon region.

The year 2003 was an exciting one for the CAT. We started out in January by holding a community meeting to focus our 4-year Action Plan that took effect August 1. Our Action Plan is available via e-mail (e-mail marena@copartnership.org), regular mail (give us a call at 553-3148) or you can stop by our office in the Plaza and pick one up.

In February, as a follow up to our Housing Summit, the CAT invited Gregg Bourland, former chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux, for three days of presentations to various audiences on a Uniform Commercial Code, and how adopting one impacted his tribe. The CAT continues to work with various tribal departments, the tribal attorneys and community members at large to determine how

best we could use commercial law to benefit economic development, home ownership, and asset-building in Warm Springs. This group is currently preparing to present a workshop to Tribal Council on what we're learning from other tribes and our own work.

Over the spring the CAT brought in John Ritter from the Department of Education to speak to the community about keeping children engaged in school. He gave practical advice on how to keep kids in school - even those that are struggling. We have copies of his handouts at the CAT office, including pamphlets on the rights of special needs children and how to handle expulsion hearings.

This summer the CAT took off with a number of projects. We have joined with the Madras area Community Action Team, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Governor's office to work on a Rural Transit project. This project hopes to coordinate current transportation efforts from individual entities so that all transportation providers and those in need of transportation can benefit from reduced costs and streamlined services.

Another exciting project for the CAT has been a joint effort with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) and Rural Development Initiatives (RDI). TFFF

has commissioned RDI to present leadership training in rural areas, and Warm Springs has been selected to receive this training. However, upon further discussion, both organizations realized that this is a wonderful opportunity to revamp their curriculum and make it more relevant to Indian and Hispanic communities. To that end, community members from Warm Springs and Madras will not only be participating in the actual leadership training later this year or in the early part of 2005, but we will be instrumental in helping to revise the curriculum. If you are interested in participating, please contact our office.

The Warm Springs Library was one of the first projects of the CAT, but we struggled from the beginning to keep the library staffed and opened. Fortunately, that has begun to change and we have had some exciting developments. Presently the library is open from 3:30 to 6:30 Monday through Thursday. We are delighted to have some after school hours, but are very much looking forward to expanding those hours and incorporating some programs. This year, the Library joined with the Corvallis campus Oregon State University library and the Jefferson County Library District to form the Central Oregon Rural Library Consortium. The

consortium received a grant from the state in late 2003 and will be using that grant to automate the Warm Springs Library and link the three libraries together so that patrons of any of the libraries can access the material from the others. Additionally, the CAT is looking to find funding for a volunteer coordinator who will help relieve the staffing (and budget) problem at the library by utilizing volunteers from our own community to staff the library and conduct programs. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Siobhan at our office.

The CAT also continues to support the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program. This program is part of the Housing and Credit Departments of the tribes and is housed in our office at the Plaza. If you are interested in starting a business or purchasing your first home, call Jack Quinn to find out about getting the information you need, and matching funds for your start up dollars, at 553-2542.

Finally, to end the year on a grand note, the CAT assisted the Boys & Girls Club in finding a new location and to secure funding from the Housing Department, but we were also fortunate enough to invest another \$5,000 in the endeavor. We are very excited about the reopening of the Warm Springs Boys

& Girls Club.

Those are some of the projects the CAT has been working on in the past year, and many will continue to be projects in the coming year. But based on what we have heard from the community, we have even more projects in the works - thanks in part to increasing our staff. In late November, Marena Florez joined us to assist in managing the office and helping to ensure the smooth running of things at the CAT. And we were fortunate to add Siobhan Cooper who will be taking over some projects, and starting new ones.

Among the projects we're working on for the coming year is a Work and Life Skills series of classes to begin in March.

These classes are open to anyone (but class size is limited) and will focus on a variety of skills to enhance personal and work lives. If you are interested in partnering with the CAT to brainstorm the list of topics (and, perhaps, share your expertise in one or more of the classes), contact us at the office. The list of classes will be available at the beginning of February.

Finally, the CAT is committed to providing more information to the community about poverty in our region and what we can all do about it. To that end, we will be providing updates on our work, and other opportunities to get involved, in the Spilyay Tymoo and on KWSO.

Spilyay Tymoo
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