

Funds earmarked for Indian education center

(AP) - A proposed \$30 million center for improving the education of American Indian children nationwide will get \$500,000 under the federal spending bill recently approved by the Senate.

The National Native American Professional Development Center is planned for development in the state of Wyoming. The \$500,000 appropriation will allow supporters of the project to pull together private, state and additional federal funding to make the project a reality.

A total of \$20 million in funding would come from the federal government. The rest would be provided by local and national foundations, charitable organizations and possible the state government.

The center will help improve educational opportunities for thousands of children. Wyoming Schools Superintendent Craig Dougherty said, "The center has been a vision of mine for the last five years. The essence of this ini-

tiative is the foundational belief that Native American students have every right, and need every opportunity, to take advantage of the best instructional practices available in learning to read, write and do math."

He said the center will be the first of its kind devoted solely to improving education opportunities for all American Indian children. The center will recruit schools that currently serve American Indian children and train their kindergarten- through third-grade staff in early literacy

and math learning frameworks. The training will be conducted in partnership with the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Mont.

The center will also work with Sheridan College in Wyoming to develop a campus for a four-year teacher education program focusing on literacy and math skills and targeted at college students who want to teach on reservations. Both programs would be independently monitored and evaluated by Stanford University to ensure accountability and effectiveness, he said.

Preparing for root season

The Culture and Heritage Department is hosting Friday afternoon classes in preparation of the Xnit (Root) Season. All classes are at 1 p.m. at the Education Building, first floor training room.

Classes are as follows:

Feb. 13 and 20: "Making a xushxushli (yarn belt)."

You will need a size G or J crochet hook and yarn. Culture and Heritage will have some yarn available.

Feb. 20 and 27, and March 5: "Making your wiq'am (moccasins)." Bring your buckskin, gloves, beads, thread, and scissors. Culture and Heritage will have some

materials available. Two styles of moccasins will be shown. **March 12 and 19:** "Finish Your Projects."

This time will be for finishing projects, or if you have something that was not shared, Culture and Heritage will do their best to share that information.

After these projects, and during the time spent together, Culture and Heritage will be planning for root digging trips, after Root Feast.

If you have questions, please call 553-3290, or stop by the Culture and Heritage Department, 1110 Wasco St.

Students learn about good bugs, bad bugs

By D. "Bing" Bingham
Spilyay Tymoo

How do you make fourth graders learn about bacteria when they can't see the little creatures?

That was the question facing Rhonda Simmons, faculty research assistant at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center, as she gathered the fourth graders around her at Warm Springs Elementary.

But Rhonda Simmons is a resourceful woman - and she has glitter.

She explained to the kids what happens when you sneeze on your hand and then don't wash it. Those bacteria are spread into some pretty unlikely places: doorknobs, pencils, other people's hands, food, even to your head when a person scratches it.

And she demonstrated the spread of bacteria by asking one child from each group to cover



Students learn about germs.

Bing Bingham/Spilyay

their hands with hand lotion. Then she sprinkled glitter on that hand and told them to go back

to the demonstration with the rest of the students.

Before long there was glitter

all over the classroom, on other students, on the desks and chairs, even on the teacher. It was an eloquent display of the way that harmful bacteria can pass around among people.

"I think the kids are going to think twice about it when they leave the bathroom," said Rhonda Simmons. "It only takes a few seconds to wash your hands, and when they go to grab the door to leave, they're going to think, 'Did the person in front of me wash their hands?'"

She continues, "I think it will really sink in that they should be courteous to other people. If you have a cold, use a handkerchief. If you happen to cough into your hand and you're going to get something to eat, wash your hands. They're very simple rules, and simple rules are a good thing. Courtesy is even better. Now we'll see what the janitors think of all the glitter around the elementary school."

Learn lifeguarding at Kah-Nee-Ta

Lifeguard classes are beginning Sunday, Feb. 8 at Kah-Nee-Ta. Regular schedule times will be discussed at this first meeting.

In this course, you will learn about the duties and responsibilities of a lifeguard and how to carry them out in a professional manner.

You will also learn a number of lifeguarding techniques, such as how to use surveillance techniques; how to use rescue equip-

ment; and how to manage a suspected spinal injury victim.

To participate you must be 15 years old, able to swim out 20 yards, do a surface dive and bring up a 10-pound brick, then swim back with the brick. Swim a distance of 500 yards, using the crawl stroke and breast stroke.

Register at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort Village Pool.

Call 553-1112, ext. 3453 for information.

Committee to screen candidates

The Board of Directors of Jefferson County School District 509-J seeks letters of interest from people interested in participating on a committee selected to screen candidate applications for the position of school superintendent.

The screenings will be the

week of April 5-9. A letter of interest may be submitted to Cindy Harris at the school Support Services Building, 445 S.E. Buff St., Madras. The letter of interest should state how your serving on the screening board will serve your community.

Workshops help prepare for graduation, college

Madras High School and the Tribal Education Department will provide a series of workshops for tribal high school seniors and their parents for the purpose of meeting graduation requirements and preparing for a smooth transition into college by maximizing the use of all

available resources and services.

The Madras High School senior class advisor John Reynolds, and Julie Quaid and Ramona Tanewasha of Tribal Education will partner to provide monthly workshop topics.

The topics are transcript review and graduation require-

ments, financial aid application, college selection and application, tribal scholarship application, trust fund education requirements, and fundraising for the Disneyland graduation trip for interested seniors.

The next workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19 at

6:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. Tedi Tanewasha from the Tribal Higher Education Department will review the process and deadlines for applying for the tribal scholarships. A light snack will be provided. If you have questions, please call Julie Quaid at 553-3241.

Umatillas abandon housing project

MISSION, Ore. (AP) - An eastern Oregon tribe abandoned plans for a housing development on Indian land after two sets of ancestral remains were discovered on the site.

Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation voted to stop construction on the Wiyit View housing subdivision. Of the 398 tribal members who voted in the special election, 217 voted to halt the project while 181 said they wanted the project to continue.

The "no" vote means the project will be abandoned, which will cost the Tribes an estimated \$1.37 million, including repayment of about \$1 mil-

lion in federal grant funds. The tribes' Board of Trustees had initially supported the subdivision as a way to provide housing while promoting homeownership.

When two sets of ancestral human remains were unearthed during construction, the project was halted and redesigned in accordance with the tribes' own procedural guidelines.

But some tribal members voiced concerns about whether the project should continue at all after the remains were found.

"We need to protect the land that contains the bones of our ancestors," a group of 15 individuals wrote in the Confederated Umatilla Journal. "Our be-

lief system - the very thing that has kept us united through all aspects of adversity - should not be lost at the expense of money." The site for Wiyit View was selected in 2001 as the most viable of eight tribally owned sites for the subdivision due to its proximity to water and sewer lines and cultural resources.

Following a lengthy approval process and testing for human remains with ground-penetrating radar, construction began in September 2003.

The remains were uncovered last Oct. 24 and construction was immediately halted. They were reburied Nov. 14 with the original soil after no lineal descendants claimed the remains.

Ad for Spilyay?
Call 553-3274.

Resort needs stables contractor

Kah-Nee-Ta is looking for a contractor to oversee the High Desert Resort and Casino's horse stables from March 1 to Oct. 15.

The contractor will provide one-hour guided horseback rides.

Requirements: Own 15-25 horses with 15-25 saddles and tack (horses need to be broke and very tame).

Have commercial general liability and workers compensation insurance and show proof of.

Stables are required to be open seven days a week.

Contact: Kah-Nee-Ta Human Resources, P.O. Box 1240, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761. Call (541) 553-1112.

The email address is as follows: khdrchr@kahneeta.com.

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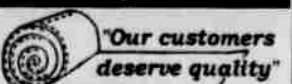
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