March 31, 2005



Raylene Thomas (left). Sallie Polk-Adams, and Charlene Moody serve lunch during a Madras High School senior class fund-raising spaghetti feed at the Warm Springs Community Center March 22. Funds from the event will be used for the seniors' trip to Disneyland.

Doctor explains causes of addiction

By Brian Mortensen Spilyay Tymoo

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While Oregon's recent measures to restrict the sale of cold medicines with ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have proven effective in hampering the production of methamphetamine, in the end, treatment and education are what will defeat the drug's scourging effect in Oregon and the western U.S., said the medical director of a treatment center for Native Americans in the northwest.

Dr. Vern Williams, from the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA), spoke recently to health professionals and Warm Springs community members at the Health and Wellness Center.

He spoke about methamphetamine addiction and its af-

of in our genes," he said. "My guess, and it's only a guess, is that it's really high. It's maybe in the 80 percent range."

Addicts who try to stop using methamphetamine without treatment often fail, he said, because prolonged use causes changes in brain circuitry that affect pleasure centers, emotion, behavior and memory. The changes are irreversible.

"These changes include the compulsion to use drugs despite severe adverse consequences," he said. "That's why an alcoholic who hasn't drank for 17 years goes out and drinks and is in the same boat or worse than he was before. You're right back to where you were because the wiring is all still there."

Methamphetamine works the same way all addictive drugs

using, to keep creating the sensation. This urge, Williams said, is common to monkeys and mice in laboratories: the animals keep pushing buttons for more methamphetamine until they die, because of the pleasurable feeling.

"One of the things that's different about methamphetamine is that it'll stick on that cell for a long, long time," he said.

See ADDICTION on page 8

Raffle to benefit horse race

The Columbia River Rodeo Association is sponsoring a raffle, proceeds to go for awards for winners of the wild horse race. The drawing will be held July 4. Tickets are \$1 each. See the following for people for tickets:

Terry Squiemphen, Gladys Squiemphen, LaDonna Squiemphen, Rita Squiemphen, Val Squiemphen, Monica Leonard, Priscilla Yazzie, Lyda Rhoan, Kitty Filbin or Dolly Badonie.

Items to be raffled:

Quarter horse colt, 27-inch color television, portable DVD player, Nike golf bag, \$100, six jars of huckleberry jam, Chemawa blanket, Mt. Rushmore mouse pad, spaghetti pot, bar-b-quer, coffee maker, ten gift certificates, beaded belt buckle, two beaded key chains, 18-inch booster cables, one kilo cut beads, two kids camp chairs, electric roaster, Pendleton vest, pick-up load of wood, handmade hunting knife, case of oil, ribbon shirt, and other donated items.

Veteran meetings on Wednesdays

Attention veterans: All VFW meetings will be upon the first Wednesdays of each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Veterans Hall.

Anyone wishing audience with the VFW should call to be added to the agenda.

The person to contact is Commander Elliot Palmer Post Nc. 4217 Kirby Heath Sr., 553-2115. Or Quartermaster Harvey Jim, 553-9003.

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fect on the human brain and body.

Williams, who has worked for NARA for the past five and a half years, said that while alcoholism can be attributed to genetics in 60 percent of patients. and nicotine addiction can be attributed to genetics in 90 percent, no one knows how high genetics plays a part in methamphetamine addiction.

"There's a high genetic component for nicotine addiction, and I suspect that for methamphetamine, the risk is just kind

work, by causing the release in the brain of the chemical dopamine.

"Everybody who takes a drug and has a pleasurable experience with a drug, whether it's alcohol, nicotine, methamphetamine, opiates, they're all doing the same thing," he said. "They're raising the dopamine level, and that causes a pleasurable experience."

Methamphetamine also raises the adrenaline level to create a rush of excitement. That rush will compel a user to keep

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