

Spilyay Tyr

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Longhouse dedication at Celilo

This Saturday, July 23, is the opening and blessing of the new longhouse at Celilo Village.

Tribal leaders from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Umatilla and Nez Perce nations will be on hand.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has been of great help in developing the new longhouse, said Delilah Heemsah, life-long resident of Celilo. Tribal leaders, especially Council Chairman Ron Suppah, lobbied the federal government for the funding, she said. The tribes and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries also gave direct donations, she said.

"Warm Springs provided all the poles for the longhouse and all the decking," she said. "That was very generous and we are thankful."

For budget reasons, the Corps of Engineers wanted to use the poles from the old longhouse for the new one, and replace the decking as needed. But the old poles and decking were no longer sturdy, said Heemsah.

The donation of the new poles and decking means the new longhouse "will last a very long time," said Heemsah.

"The new longhouse looks wonderful," she said. "The kitchen is beautiful. It's got a dishwasher, many sinks, and an enclosed storage area."

See **LONGHOUSE** on 10

Group from Japan helps at ECE

By Ashley Aguilar
Spilyay Tymoo

The Kaneko Summer Group of eight Japanese college students from Tokyo, Japan, and two college students from Willamette University, visited Warm Springs last week.

The students were here to complete a building at the Early Childhood Education center (ECE) and to learn more about Native American culture.

The group from Japan included one female and eight male students. They are in the U.S. for one year studying the English language.

Each year a new group of Kaneko Summer Group students comes and works on a project at ECE. This year the group worked on building a storage shed. The shed will be used for storage of playing equipment.

ECE held a mini powwow July 14 in honor of their guests, with some of the children dressing in regalia and others dancing casual.

At the powwow were elders, drummers, ECE staff, the children and their parents. The Japanese students were amazed by the beautiful regalia, the dancing and the songs. One member of the group commented that he had never seen anything like it before.

The group was staying out at Kah-Nee-Ta in the teepees. "Not many of them have camped before," said volunteer worker Andrea Meidinger, who is one of the students helping the Japanese guests with their stay.

"Many of them have not done volunteer work before, and this is a good cultural experience for them. They seem eager to participate," said Meidinger.

This is the first time in the U.S. for the members of the group. When asked what sparked their interest in visiting Warm Springs, Takaka Niruma said that the movie *Smoke Signals* was his reason.

See **JAPANESE** on 10

Ventures corporation is being reorganized

Warm Springs Ventures, the business and economic development corporation of the tribes, is being restructured. The tribes have contracted with Hamstreet and Associates to do an assessment of Ventures and its businesses, said Jody Calica, secretary-treasurer.

Hamstreet and Associates is a firm that helps in turning around businesses. The firm was brought in during the 1990s to help turn around Warm Springs Forest Products In-

dustries. The tribes have retained Hamstreet and Associates to serve as chief restructuring officer of Ventures, said Calica.

Meanwhile, Tribal Council meanwhile has appointed an interim board of directors of Ventures.

"We anticipate operating under this arrangement for about six months," said Calica.

The interim board members are Ken Smith, Jim Fitzhenry, Ray Potter and Calica.

Smith is a former secretary-treasurer of the tribes, and a consultant. Fitzhenry is the one previous Ventures board member who is continuing to serve on the new board. Potter is the tribes' chief financial officer.

Ventures began about three years ago. The company is a tribal enterprise dedicated to business and economic development of the tribes. The need for this enterprise has grown in recent years, as the tribal economy has moved away from reliance on timber.

Ventures over the past few years has acquired the Cort Directions payroll and human resources software company, based in Bend; and the Kibak Tile Company of Redmond.

Ventures has also been managing the tribal construction enterprise.

The goal of the reorganization of Ventures is to ensure its success, and the success of the companies, said Calica. With the reorganization, "We're feeling optimistic," he said.



Brian Mortensen/Spilyay

Jacoby Ellsbury was in Warm Springs last month to watch his brother Spencer play in the 12-and-under PI-Ume-Sha baseball championship game. He also signed many autographs for young baseball fans.

Ellsbury runs for big leagues

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Jacoby Ellsbury was a great baseball player even during his t-ball days.

"You could see he had the potential to go places," said Jim Manion, who coached Ellsbury on the Warm Springs Fire and Safety t-ball team. "Even with my limited ability as a coach, I could see that."

Seventeen years later Ellsbury has signed with the Boston Red Sox. For

now he's playing with the Lowell (Mass.) Spinners, Class A minor league team of the Red Sox.

Earlier this year Ellsbury was in college, playing for the Oregon State Beavers, and his team made it to the College World Series.

Clearly, Ellsbury has gone places with baseball. "I'm having a great time playing," he said. Class A baseball is a little different from college ball, he said. In college there is more of an emphasis

on the team, while at Class A there is greater emphasis on developing as a player. "A lot of guys are trying to move up," he said. "You have to be mentally strong to play pro ball. You can't let little things get to you."

Ellsbury lived in Warm Springs until he was about 5 years old. "I remember going to kindergarten there, playing t-ball, riding my bike around."

See **ELLSBURY** on 8

Ike recognized for efforts against drug abuse

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

As a direct descendant of one of the signers of the Treaty of 1855, you could say Leona Ike has a stake in the well being of the Warm Springs people.

Ike, supervisor of the Warm Springs Parole and Probation Office, was presented recently with an award of achievement by the Jefferson County Meth Task Force, a group of treatment providers, officials of the tribes and Jefferson County, and law enforcement.

The award, presented by Heather Puckett of the Task Force, honors Ike for her "willingness to go above and beyond to change a community norm with a local business."

Ike said she was nominated for the award by Jefferson County Commissioner Mary Zemke, and received the most votes for it.

"I think it's positive that we're all trying to participate and fight against methamphetamine addiction, and the selling of drugs in our community—not just in Warm Springs, but all over," she said.



Leona Ike

Ike was considered for the award for approaching a small Madras grocery store that sold paraphernalia out in the open. She had found out what the store was doing at a Meth Task Force meeting.

"I went there and let them know that we have a zero-tolerance for drug paraphernalia or any type of drug abuse," she said.

Ike is in her position within law en-

forcement not with an iron fist to bust crime, but with a soft touch to aid her neighbors on the reservation.

"We had our struggles in my own family, growing up in the 1960s and the early 70s, overcoming alcohol and drug addiction that was rampant. This is just my calling in life," she said of her job.

"A lot of people don't see me as a helper in the beginning," she said. "They don't like me, and they don't like being supervised, but a lot of times at the end of the probation, I end up with friends for life. They begin to see me, I guess, through different eyes."

She said that many people in the Parole and Probation system don't make the necessary changes, "but there are many who change their lives and rehabilitate themselves. They see a total change in themselves, and they see me as someone who's trying to help them."

Ike has a staff of probation officers who are mostly tribal members. She could earn more money in a similar position off the reservation, but chooses to stay in Warm Springs.

"It's not about money," she said. "It's about helping our own people and giv-

ing back to our community."

In Warm Springs, Ike said more urinalysis (UA) tests are being conducted for those on parole or probation.

"We lucked out and got an additional \$7,000 in grant dollars," she said. "We had run out of money already by the end of May. We get just \$5,000 a year for UAs."

When tests return positive for drugs, and if the subject tested has children at home, Parole and Probation notifies Warm Springs Children's Protective Services, Ike said.

"Our first responsibility is to the children, because with methamphetamine the parents' behaviors are erratic," she said. "They go from being paranoid to being hostile. They'll take it out on anybody, no matter how much they love them."

Ike said that although she works mainly with adults, she is mostly concerned with children. She has three sons of her own.

On the Warm Springs Reservation, Ike said, people in their 60s have tested positive for methamphetamine, as has at least one child 10 years old.

See **Ike** on page 10

Budget cuts effect Managed Care Program

The Warm Springs Managed Care Program has been forced to limit payment for some medical procedures for patients referred off the reservation. The limit is the result of increasing healthcare costs, combined with cuts in the Oregon Health Plan, said Mike Marcotte, Administrator of the Managed Care Program.

Managed Care will pay for priority I level referrals for off-reservation services. Level I priority services are defined as emergent or acutely urgent care services, or services necessary to prevent the immediate death or serious impairment of the health of the individual. Procedures that do not meet this level of priority are effected by the recent change, said Marcotte.

Most other tribes have already been in the situation of applying this standard, he said. Warm Springs had been in an almost unique situation before, as Managed Care was able to fund a wide variety of medical services off the reservation.

"Cutbacks in the Oregon Health Plan are having a dramatic effect on the Managed Care Program budget," said Marcotte. In the past Managed Care has been able to pay the part of a patient's bill that was not covered by insurance, as long as proper procedure was followed and the service was medically necessary. The new policy means that Managed Care will pay only if the procedure is labeled Priority I by the Indian Health Service Provider.

(For an explanation of the new policy, see the Managed Care article on page 7.)