

Camp teaches tribal values

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Summer can be a time to learn and think about tribal culture, and that's what Camp Sap-Si-Kwat is all about.

The day camp, at Elmer Quinn Park in July, includes games, crafts and time spent with elders. The point, counselor and camp organizer Charlotte Herkshan said, is to keep the kids in touch with their heritage.

"They had big circle, and then they spent probably an hour and a half just talking," she said. "Wilford Jim was the elder of the circle and he talked to them about being respectful to each other, being respectful as hunters, being respectful as young men."

The camp is a way to teach young people about tribal culture, so they'll carry the knowledge into young adulthood.

The youth are taught, for instance, that "gangs are not a part

of our culture, that you should not go in that direction," said Herkshan.

The camp is for both girls and boys, and on this particular week in July, camp started with 45 campers and finished with about 55.

"Some days we have 50 kids and the next day we could have 150 kids," Herkshan said. "I was nervous this year, because there already are a lot of activities - the new teen center, Carol Allison has activities at the Community Center, the Boys and Girls club, Summer Academy, 4-H, summer work."

But the turnout was good for this year's Camp Sap-Si-Kwat.

The first camp was 15 years ago. "It started out as a Healthy Nations program," Herkshan said. "The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation granted us funding. It was just going to be a three-year project, but it's still going."

The kids can be as young as

5 and as old as 17. They arrive at the park at about 7:30 or 8 in the morning. They played games, created crafts, and listened to elders speak. Food was provided by donations, and the kids ate lunch each day. When the day turns very hot, the kids go swimming in the river.

While the boys listened to elders talk about the ceremonial hunt, girls made beaded moccasins, or if they wished, beaded medallions.

Another aim of the camp is for the kids, mostly from Warm Springs, to get to know kids from other parts of the reservation. Sometimes young people who are relatives of one another meet for the first time at the camp, and they leave as friends.

A group of students from Japan attended Camp Sap-Si-Kwat. "All the kids decided they were going to make dream catchers," Herkshan said.

See **SAP-SI-KWAT** on 12

Nurse bids farewell

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Sharon John is a Registered Nurse who served in public health service for 17 years and in Warm Springs for nearly four. She recently said farewell to friends and other people who have been touched by her compassion.

A luncheon in recognition for her service was held at the Agency Longhouse July 27.

John transferred to the Yakama reservation to work for Dr. Rex Quempt, and to coordinate the diabetes prevention program on that reservation.

The move will end years of commuting to Warm Springs from her home in Yakima.

"I'm excited about going home," she said. "I feel like I've been away from my family for five years. I would come home on weekends and



Sharon John

then come back to work during the week. I know the roads really well."

The audience at the longhouse included at least 100 tribal members and former co-workers at the Warm Springs clinic, as well as several members of her family, including all of her grandchildren.

Among the gifts she received were two shawls, one honoring her 17 years in public health

service. She also received a painting of Celilo Falls.

The reception and luncheon at the longhouse, she said, "is sending me off in a good way. I wanted the washut songs because that's the way I was greeted when I first came here. Now I'm going on to the next chapter in my life."

Several people spoke of John's interest in recruiting new nurses among Native American people.

"I'm always recruiting Indian children into the nursing field because we need more Indian nurses," she said. "That's one of the objectives of Indian Health Services."

Before she moved to Warm Springs, John worked in Portland as part of the Northwest Indian Health Board as an injury prevention specialist.

Fundraiser for jingle dress special

Our family will be having a fundraiser for my daughter Raylene Thomas. We are having a jingle dress special during the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow on Aug. 19-21. Her birthday is on August 19. She'll be going from a teen to a woman. This is considered to be a traditional payment for her going into womanhood. She's been dancing since the age of 4. Her auntie Len and my ex sister-in-law Suse Boileau-Antikier started her in dancing by traveling with our girls, Natasha Edwards, Jeceya Ike and Raylene, throughout the Northwest. Raylene continued to travel to powwows with her other aunt, Leona. Leona returned to dancing after being absent since we were teenagers. Our mom Daisy, Fred "Laddie" Jr., Lucas, Leona, myself, Lena and Tyrone traveled throughout the United States and Canada during the 70s into the early 80s. We all made our school clothes money by dancing. We lived in White Swan, Wash., during that time, being that our father Autwi' Fred Ike Sr. was from Yakama. All of us danced in the fancy dance category. They didn't have jingle or grass dance contests in those days.



Raylene with some of her teammates on the White Buffalo team



Photos courtesy of Lavena Ike
Raylene jingle dancing.

Tyrone and I traveled many miles to watch her play during her high school basketball career. My mom, sister Lena, and cousin Agnes, did a lot of babysitting during those times. Without all of them, that would have been difficult being a single parent, money and time were tight. Rae was unable to travel to Arizona with Jaylyn and Briana. With her dance special coming up, we thought it was better she hit a few powwows first.

Unfortunately, the Arizona tournament was the same weekend as the Olympia Powwow. She contributed with fundraising and getting sponsors though, and we had to make a choice.

Raylene, who graduated this past June, is planning to continue with her schooling, majoring in law enforcement/criminal justice when she goes to college. She may have to work one year, because she missed the deadline for Summer Bridge for a tribal scholarship. We are looking for different scholarships in basketball and criminal justice.

Raylene's hobbies and favorites are: sports, basketball and powwow dancing. Music, powwow drums, R&B and Hip Hop. Group: Perfect Storm and Blackstone. Male athlete: Reggie Miller, Tim Duncan and Julius Erving. Female athlete: Diana Taurasi. Food: fries and brown gravy. Drink: Sierra Mist and Snicker Latte.

Raylene (xu'aut'ni) is the daughter of Ron Thomas Sr., and LaVena "Lovie" Ike. She has

two brothers, Walsey and Ron Jr.; six sisters, Dena, Daisy, Quataw, Dionne and Dorothy (Kalama) Thomas. One (powwow) adopted sister Emily Blackdog-Ponyah. Her maternal grandparents are: Autwi' former Chief of the Mid-Columbia River, Fred Ike Sr., and Daisy (Dick) Ike; paternal grandparents are Leslie Thomas and Roberta (Luce) Wawausuk. Maternal great grandparents are Autwi' LaVena (Towash) "Lovie" Dick and Autwi' Benjamin Dick (killed in action - World War II).

Raylene is a sixth generation maternal descendant of Wasco Chief Tah-Symph, signer of the Treaty of 1855. On her paternal side, her grandpa and my father, Chief Fred Ike Sr., served on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and was on the Yakama Nation Tribal Council prior to death from cancer in 2003.

The fundraiser date is August 12 at Community Center Social Hall from 11 a.m. until "sold out."

Menu: stew and fry bread or hamburger/hotdog with potato salad and drink. \$5 a plate or donation.

Our oldest brother, Fred, is the arena director for the powwow at Grand Ronde. He has done this the past eight years, since before all the controversy. This, and the timing, are why the jingle dress special is being held at Grand Ronde.

Sincerely, **LaVena Ike.**

Museum seeking artwork

Tribal member artists are reminded that the deadline for submission to the 12th Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit at the Museum At Warm Springs is Thurs., Sept 1.

The exhibit is scheduled to run from Sept. 29 through Jan. 10, 2006 in the museum's Changing Exhibits Gallery. All Warm Springs tribal member artists 18 years of age or older are encouraged to submit their work.

The Basics: You must be at least 18 and an enrolled Warm Springs tribal member. You must submit no more

than five items along with the application form before the deadline.

All entries must be no more than five years old, and must not have been shown in any other exhibits at the Museum At Warm Springs.

Submitted works must remain on display through entire duration of exhibit dates.

Application forms are now available at the museum.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Kirk at the museum, 553-3331, ext. 412.

Head Start taking applications

Head Start is now taking applications for the fall 2005 school year. Eligibility is based on prioritized selection criteria in the following order:

Income eligibility based on annual income and family size. Age (turning 3 or 4 on or before Sept. 1). Disability.

Other risk factors. Head Start is a federal program for pre-school children from low-income families. The program helps these children to succeed in life.

For information, please contact Jodi or Shirelle at 553-3240.

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I would like to say, I'm very proud of my daughter Raylene's accomplishments not only with her dancing, also in sports. She has made a name for herself, earning her place as a World Class champion jingle dress dancer. Her travels include from Murango Tribe in California to Schemitzun in Connecticut. She is better known as Raylene Ike, carrying our family's last name. During the special, Raylene will also be recognized for her athletics in basketball. Ever since she was a little girl, she would always challenge herself, whether it would be school or recreation. She played T-ball and Little League softball when I worked at the Recreation Department. She played the positions of shortstop and second base. Her coaches Marti-Rae Wells and Louelle Heath-Jackson urged her to continue playing softball because she was so fast and liked the mental challenge. Of course, Rae didn't want to ruin her knees for basketball after injuring her knee while playing volleyball. In basketball, she excelled very quickly. When she began to play high school ball, Lana (Shike) Leonard and Matt Rama, her freshman coaches, encouraged her to continue playing in summer league and post/pre-season tournaments.

Rae played on the JV team during her freshman year and preseason of her sophomore year. She moved from JV to varsity before Tri-Valley League play, when Madras ended up winning the state championship in the 2002-03 season.

During those times, her uncle Kanim Smith would show her some post moves, and Andy Leonard helped her work on her form and free throws. During the last season, as a co-captain of the Lady White Buffalo team, all the work she spent to better herself paid off. Along with Coach Bruce Reece, co-captain Jaylyn Suppah, Susan Ahern, and Briana Stacona, they made it to the second round in the 3-A state playoffs, prevailing by losing in the elimination round to Tillamook. Rae played in the post/wing position, at only 5'8".

Her senior year was very tough. She was able to work that much harder, where she earned honorable mention in Tri-Valley League. Not bad, starting late in league play, averaging in double figures a game for the remainder of the season. Leona,