

Spilyay Tymoo

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Dancers help preserve tribal culture

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

A group of nearly 40 kids, from preschool age to high school, are helping keep alive the culture of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Warm Springs 4-H Social Dance club meets once a week in the aerobics room at the Community Center to learn dances that have been a part of tribal culture for many generations.

"We incorporated a couple of Paiute round dances and a hoop dance, and some from the Sahaptin people as well," said Valerie Switzler, language teacher at the Culture and Heritage Department. Switzler instructs the dance club along with Deanie Johnson, also a language teacher at Culture and Heritage.

The Warm Springs, or Sahaptin speaking tribes, the Kiksht-speaking, or Wasco tribes, and the Paiutes each had different dances.

"We've learned each others' dances, and have had fun," Switzler said. She has taught her class the Yupai dance, which she said was once a Paiute dance but, according to a story, was given to the Wasco people.

The club has 41 children registered, with a regular group of 24 who show up for the lessons.

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Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Elysebeth Scott is a candidate of the Junior Court of the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow. She is a third-grader at Madras Elementary School. She likes to dance at powwows such as Pi-Ume-Sha, and at powwows in Portland and nearby areas. She decided to become part of the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow when she saw other girls wearing the court crowns. "I decided I want to be a part of it," she said. Her favorite things about school are mathematics and recess. She especially likes to play tetherball during recess. Elysebeth lives with her grandmother Sonya Scott. As part of the Powwow Court, Elysebeth is selling raffle tickets. The money raised from the raffle supports the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. You can purchase tickets from Elysebeth by calling 553-1345. The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow will be at the Simnasho Longhouse Feb. 10-12. (Other candidates of the Powwow Court will be featured in upcoming editions of the Spilyay Tymoo.)

Bighorn sheep herd grows to 60

Between transplants in 2002 and last December, the big horn sheep population on the Warm Springs reservation is now up to around 60 sheep and doing well.

The herd of 15 transported from the John Day River canyon near Condon about a year ago has increased to 20, Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife manager Terry Luther said last week. While two adult sheep have been killed in the past year, seven lambs have been born and survived since their birth last April.

If conditions allow, based on availability of forage and favorable weather conditions, the herd could increase to better than 200 animals. "If they keep doing well, in five years we could have over 200 sheep," he said.

An original group of 20 sheep were brought to the reservation in January 2002. By the time the group of 15 were added last December, that group had expanded to 30.

"Those initial sheep have split into three different bands," Luther said. "Two with a ram and ewes and lambs, and one band of just rams. That's very typical because one ram will take over a group, and you'll have a bachelor group."

Of the group brought over last December, one was killed, probably by a mountain lion near Wapanitia Creek north of the reservation.

Shortly after being transported to the reservation, three of the rams went on a reconnaissance trip to Wapanitia creek. One of them was killed by a mountain lion but the other two came back.

Fish and Wildlife personnel monitor the sheep with monthly checks using aircraft, and periodic field investigations. The sheep wear radio collars to make them easier to track.

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\$2 million reduction in 2006 tribal budget

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal Council has approved the 2006 budget, which will involve some significant changes in the tribal organization.

The budget for next year is a little over \$19.25 million. Developing a balanced budget required reductions of just under \$2 million.

Eight positions held by tribal members are being eliminated; however, people in these jobs will have the opportunity to move to other, vacant positions in the organization.

"We do not anticipate any tribal members becoming unemployed as a result of the budget reductions," said Ray Potter, the tribes' chief financial officer.

"All individuals impacted are scheduled to meet with the personnel department this week to discuss reassignment to other open positions."

In reaching the balanced budget, the revenue reserve, or rainy day fund was not used.

The budget includes additional money for operation of High Lookee Lodge. The lodge will receive an additional \$200,000 next year, necessary for continued operation.

The lodge came under tribal management in 2005, as the tribes' previous contractual arrangement with a private management company came to an end.

During the district and other meetings on the budget, the continued operation of High Lookee was a point of general agreement.

Cost of living, bonus

In the 2006 budget there is \$200,000 set aside for a cost of living increase for tribal employees.

There will be a year-end bonus for tribal members that will be less than the amount received last year. The bonus this year will be 70 percent of the amount received at the end of 2004, or \$700.

The tribal general fund budget relies mainly on revenue from Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

Other sources are Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, Kah-Nee-Ta, and Warm Springs Composite Products.

According to the budget summary released earlier in the fall, enterprise revenue to the tribes in 2006 is expected \$12.5 million.

The largest tribal enterprise is Power Enterprises, with a projected dividend of \$10 million.

Timber stumpage from Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is projected at \$4 million. Gaming is expecting a \$1.5 million dividend. Credit and Composite Products are projecting 2006 dividends of \$500,000 each; and Tectonics International, \$50,000.

For the 2006 budget the tribes had available \$4.5 million in the category of "other revenue," which includes items such as prior year savings, and money from the HeHe-McQuinn lawsuit settlement.

For the budget year 2007 the "other revenue" category may include \$1.5 million, or \$3 million less than the amount available in developing the 2006 budget. For this reason a potentially more difficult budget process can be expected next year.

The much-needed new source of revenue is the casino the tribes are planning to develop at the Columbia River.

However, for budgeting purposes, revenue from a new casino could not be expected until three years after the project has necessary federal approval.

The Gorge casino project is in the environmental impact statement (EIS) phase, expected to last until the middle of next year.

The 500,000-square-foot riverfront resort and casino is planned for construction on 60 acres of land in the Cascade Locks industrial park.

Many challenges facing Native radio

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Mary Sando-Emhoolah gained a new perspective on how difficult life is for indigenous people in some South American countries.

Sando-Emhoolah, a former manager of KWSO, is a member of two national boards of Native American and community radio. She was the main speaker last month at a conference on community radio in Santiago.

Sando-Emhoolah spoke at the "Culturas en el Aire" at the Centro Cultural Estacion Mapocho in Santiago, Oct. 14-15.

The conference included indigenous broadcasters, researchers and non-indigenous scholars from Chile, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Columbia.

"I was one of the last people confirmed to go, but I ended up being the main speaker on the panel," Sando-Emhoolah said.

Sando-Emhoolah is on the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, as well as a member of the advisory council of the Center for Native American Public Radio.

Harvard University's Latin American studies group sponsored



Mary Sando-Emhoolah of Warm Springs, compares traditional jewelry with a girl from the Mapuche tribe of Chile during Sando-Emhoolah's trip to Santiago, Chile, for the Culturas en el Aire ("Cultures in the Air") seminar Oct. 14-15.

the conference. Harvard also flew Sando-Emhoolah to Santiago for the event.

"My trip was going to be paid for by the U.S. Consulate, but Harvard University actually ended up paying for my trip," she said. "They wanted me to participate."

Sando-Emhoolah's role in the conference was mainly to talk about com-

munity radio, as it is used in Native American communities in the United States.

While sharing her knowledge, she also learned that not every place is equal in its treatment of its indigenous peoples.

"People asked me what impressions were. What stayed on my mind, and still concerns me now, is where they are

as indigenous or Native people. I think Natives there are where they were in the United States in the 1950s and 60s," she said.

"A lot of the time there is one person fighting for indigenous rights. Indigenous people aren't encouraged, they aren't recognized by the government, which is totally different from the United States, where we have government-to-government relationships. In South America it's not that way. They're not even recognized."

At the conference many of the presenters offered their stories in video form. One whose story touched Sando-Emhoolah was a woman from an indigenous tribe from Chile whose land was being taken by a large business concern. While younger people in the area settled with the company and left their homes, the woman continued to resist.

"She doesn't speak English. But in the video, you can see her getting right in the construction peoples' faces, saying, 'I want you to leave, I don't want you here, This is my land. You're being very disruptive to my home,'" she said.

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