

Canoe project is a worthy cause

By Randy Scott

The Museum At Warm Springs is overseeing what is called "The River Eagle Canoe Project." This project is the return to canoe making by the Warm Springs Tribes. Once completed, this newly made canoe will launch its maiden voyage on the Columbia River at Celilo Village by July 2006. History tells us that the Native Americans living along the Columbia River were canoe makers; this was also documented in the journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

In 1989, during the Washington State Centennial Celebration at Seattle, Washington, the coastal Indians of Washington and Canada formed what they called the "Paddle to Seattle". There were only a few Indian tribes that actually participated in this event, but what happened afterward is ongoing. What took place at the "Paddle to Seattle" was that a few canoes launched out from their respective villages, land at the next village, stay overnight, and then launch again the next day in addition with that village's canoe as well. This culminated in a gathering of "Canoe Families" at Seattle, Washington. The coastal Indian Villages realized they were re-introduced into what had been taking place for centuries. Neighboring villages and tribes would quite often travel by canoe and visit one another. A visiting canoe would formally ask permission to land at another village's landing place. The accepting village would come out and formally

greet the visiting canoe. The experience was so culturally awakening that it was proposed to make it an annual event. Since then the "Canoe Journey" has grown over the years with a different village as the final destination each year. Last years journey, "Back to Elwa" which refers to the Lower Elwa Sk'lallum Tribe at Port Angeles, Washington, had 74 canoes participating from Oregon, Washington, Canada and Alaska. These canoes varied in size from holding 2 to 18 pullers. There were 5,000 people on shore to greet the canoes as they landed at Port Angeles.

During last year's "Back to Elwa" journey, Louis Scott and I attended the landing at Port Townsend, Washington. Our sister, Ervanna Little Eagle, has been participating as a crewmember of the Tulalip Tribes Canoe Family for a number of years. Our mother, Aurelia Stacona, also participated as part of the Tulalip support group in the early years. Louis was so impressed by the whole affair that he later told Ervanna that on the next year's journey he wanted to be on a canoe. Ervanna told him that any canoe family would eagerly accept a grown man as a crewmember. Events took a turn after that, not only was Louis to participate as a crewmember, but the opportunity came up to form a new canoe family. With the help of Joseph Shepherd, archaeologist, and the Museum at Warm Springs, the "River Eagle Canoe

Project" was formed. The immediate goal of this project is to build a canoe, train a crew of pullers, and finally, to participate in this years "Journey to Muckleshoot," Washington. This years Journey to Muckleshoot takes place in July, and the final leg of the journey is across Lake Washington at Seattle, to the South shoreline at the Muckleshoot Reservation. The River Eagle Canoe will launch at Celilo Village, travel down the Columbia River to Astoria, load onto a trailer, travel overland and set back in at a yet to be determined site on the Washington coast where it will join the growing procession of canoes.

The formation of this "Canoe Family" is not just for a pleasure cruise in the summer. First and foremost in the protocol of a canoe family is to be drug and alcohol free. A part of being on a canoe is to participate 100 percent, when a canoe is on the open ocean, each and every member must rely on the whole crew to be involved and to trust each other completely for the safety of all. The canoe family is not a religion in itself; rather it encourages spirituality in a good clean activity and safe environment. A significant part of the journey is that as the canoe is on the open ocean, the crew will pray and sing tribal songs as they pull.

When Louis first started talking about this Canoe Family, quite a number of people expressed an eagerness to be a part of this project. Joseph Shepherd has been putting together a strip

canoe at the Museum for the past few weeks. A strip canoe is making a canoe frame, gluing strips of wood onto that frame and then sanding down the outside. So the call goes out for any and all tribal members interested in being part of this project to step forward and participate in the building of the canoe and in turn, start training to pull. No doubt, there will be few people that will have experience in working with a twelve-member crew of pullers. To be part of this canoe family is not restricted to pullers, there is also what is called the support group. This group follows the canoe onshore from one participating village to the next, carrying food supplies, tents, and camp equipment. Once at the new landing site, the group sets up camp and has everything ready for the canoe crewmembers when they arrive, so instead of setting up camp, they can rest for the next day's trip. Now that by no means is all there is to it, at each village, there are religious ceremonies performed by each tribe, so these events can go on into the night. At the final destination, there is a weeklong succession of religious ceremonies performed by each tribe.

So if you want to participate, now is the time to show up. So far the schedule for participation has been on weekends at the Museum. There is so much more information regarding the project, but this article for now is only a public announcement calling for Tribal member participation.

Forest plan under review

The Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Forested Area (IRMP I), first adopted in 1992, is now undergoing a professional review and evaluation.

Staff from the Natural Resources and Forestry branches, Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, and members of tribal committees launched the review this week.

The IRMP review team will first look at key issues within the plans, and try to determine if goals, objectives, standards and best management practices are being met and whether they are effective.

In the weeks ahead, the team will be seeking tribal member and committee input on the plan and recommended revisions.

Known as the midcourse correction, the ongoing review is scheduled to obtain a Tribal Council decision before

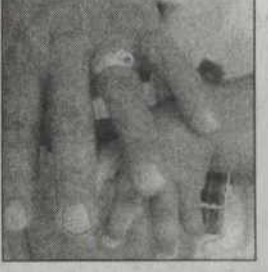
the end of the year. A recalculation of the annual allowable cut will be part of the IRMP team's recommendation.

Key issues to be addressed during the midcourse correction will include water, fish, wildlife, conditional use areas, cultural resources, timber, economics, biological diversity, rare and culturally significant species, fire management, forage, recreation, transportation, salvage logging, firewood, soil, energy, visual resources, biomass and renewable natural resources commodities.

Anyone interested in learning more about the plan and midcourse correction should contact Ken Borchert in Forestry at 553-2416 or Dee Sehgal in Natural Resources at 553-2001.

Meetings held to gather tribal member comments will be announced at a future date.

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Spirit of Salmon gathering May 13

The Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Gala will happen Saturday, May 13 at Portland's Waterfront Marriott Hotel. Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum means "salmon people" in the language of Columbia Basin tribes.

The gala benefits the Spirit of the Salmon Fund efforts to support tribal salmon restoration in the Columbia River Basin.

Guests will enjoy a salmon and huckleberry dinner, presentation of the Spirit of the Salmon awards, silent and live auctions featuring tribal art and other offerings, and a special performance of a scene from the upcoming play "Ghosts of Celilo."

Seating is limited and sales are already higher than in years past. More information is available at www.wykanushpum.org.

The Spirit of the Salmon Fund can be reached at (503) 238-0667.

The Spirit of the Salmon Fund is part of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, whose member tribes include the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce.

Kah-Nee-Ta Golf fundraiser tourney

The Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Association fundraiser four-person scramble golf tournament is set for this Sunday, April 30.

Tee times start at 10 a.m. Call Butch David to reserve a tee

time. He can be reached at 553-0112 or 325-2253. Or call Janell Smith at 553-7829.

Entry fee is \$35 per person, or \$20 per person for Kah-Nee-Ta members.

Entry fee includes green fees, Kp's, and long putts. Mulligans are \$1 each, five max per player.

Putting string: \$5 each. Two per team. One string per nine holes.

Legal Aid Services offers free advice

Legal Aid Service of Oregon provides free legal advice and representation to low-income Oregonians. We can help you with most civil legal problems, including:

- Housing and landlord/tenant problems;
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- Consumer law problems;
- Wills, living wills, guardianships and powers of attorney;
- Family law issues (domestic violence, child

- custody, divorce, child support);
- Educational rights;
- Tax disputes with the IRS.

Legal Services will be at the Family Resource Center on Monday, May 1 from 1-4 p.m.

If you would like to make an appointment, please call the Warm Springs Community Action Team at 325-3115 or at 553-3438 OR call Legal Aid Service of Oregon, Central Oregon Regional Office at 385-6944 or toll free 1-800-678-6944.

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