

Students: honoring seniors

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They are not self-disciplined, they get into too much trouble, and they get away with too many bad things. Jaycelene then asked what the court system should do to help the youth. Ms. Yazzie said the people of the courts should get more involved in the schools, and show their concerns. This would let the youth know that someone cares, and that they are being watched over.

Jaycelene was very happy to have helped with Honor Seniors Day. Jaycelene said it was not very different from working at the feasts, or at funerals. This is something that she was brought up with in her life, through the teachings of her dad Yahtin Frank, and the teachings of his parents.

High school student Teryl Florando is a six-year veteran of Honor Seniors Day. She said this year saw a great turnout of people compared to some years in the past.

Teryl said she did not get to see much of the event, because she was very busy in the kitchen. She said she is grateful and never gets tired of helping out in the longhouse.

Teryl interviewed an elder from Redmond who had grown up on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Ms. Viola Black shared that today's youth have taken everything for granted.

Viola told Teryl that some reservations are very poor and don't have what the youth of Warm Springs have. The youth here need to look around and be happy for what they have, and take advantage of the good things they have.

Viola said that when she was young the young people got into trouble but not like the trouble the youth of today get into. It was minor compared to today.

Student Charmaine Frank said she was happy to see the many elders from different places at the longhouse.

Charmaine said Honor Seniors Day reminded her of helping in the longhouse during the Salmon Feast, or Funerals. She says it is a part of her life too.

Charmaine said she had very little time to watch any of the events but got to see the Elvis impersonator.

Katherine Hoptowit interviewed her grandaunt Iris Kalama-Smith. Iris was born here in Warm Springs in 1932. Katherine asked Iris what she thought of the youth of today. Iris said they are all great kids.

Katherine then asks about the court system. Iris responded by saying that the police should bring the kid right to their parent, face to face, and work something out on the spot. This would work better than jail, she said.

Katherine what she thought of this idea Katherine hesitates, and states this would work better than jail. This was Katherine's first time participating in Honor Seniors Day.

Middle school students

There were nine middle school students who attended the Honor Senior Day. They are Anthony Blueback, Adriel Pineda-Soto, Matt Sconawah, Jason Smarlowit, Martin Smith, Leonard American Horse, Traci Colwash, Kameanna Lujan, and Alyssa Tanewasha.

Adriel Pineda-Soto said that some of the jobs he did at Honor Seniors Day were greeting people at the doors, helping serve lunch, serving water and doughnuts, and taking out the



Photo courtesy of the Tribal Youth Program

Elders gather for the annual Honor Seniors Day.

trash. With a busy schedule he was not able to see any of the events.

He was able to interview an elder woman, who in responding to a question answered that she was afraid for the youth.

Jason Smarlowit said that he enjoyed helping the elders. Some of the jobs that he did were serving water to elders, help making the snack bags that were given out, and any other jobs that he could help with. Although he didn't get to interview any of the elders, he did spend time talking to them while helping them, and said he learned many things from that ones that he talked to.

Martin Smith had a good time helping and watching the elders all through the day. He found some time to watch a few of the events, but not many.

Martin interviewed his grandmother. She said that the courthouse could help the youth by holding more activities for the youth.

She said that the youth of today have more organized activities and events than when she was young.

Leonard American Horse said the day went well. He helped with many of the jobs such as bringing coffee to elders, bringing in boxes for the vendors, and many others that kept him busy all day.

Leonard had a good time while working with the other students from the Middle School. He found some time in between task to talk to a few elders, and listened to what they had to say. While working for the elders he felt a great sense of pride for the help that he gave.

Traci Colwash said that while working in the kitchen she could hear the elders having fun during the events that took place. She helped with a lot of the tasks that went on in the kitchen. Some of those tasks were cutting vegetables, cleaning and setting tables, and anything else that the head cook needed help with.

Middle school student Kameanna Lujan interviewed her grandmother from Hood River.

She learned a lot in the short time she talked with her grandmother.

Alyssa Tanewasha interviewed an elder woman from Pendleton. The elder thought that we should have more programs for the youth.

She also said that the elders when she was young were much more strict, and no young people were taking drugs.

Seeing the middle school and high school youth at work throughout the day was a very good experience. JoDe Goudy, of Tribal Youth Program, worked hard to keep them on the go non-stop.

Madras High School Principal Gary Carlton, middle school principal Steve Johnson, middle school liaison Butch David and the Honor Seniors Day Committee say thank-you for organizing the involvement of the students.

The students followed instructions very well. The respect they gave to the elders was enormous. The elders saw the respect and shared their respect too.

Everywhere around the longhouse the people were giving their all to their elders, and visiting elders alike.

I heard comments throughout the day saying how pleased they were for the young helping out.

Watching the youth work hard throughout the day will always be remembered by many.

To the families of the following students, please commend and love your children, for they have honored the elders, themselves, and you their families with their hard work throughout the Honor Seniors Day Event.

The Youth participating were (from the high school): Byron

Thank you for supporting the businesses you see in the Spilyay Tymoo

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Scott, Carlo Wallulatum, Kevin Ball, Jose Medina, Troy Sam-Smith, Jake Scott, Curtiss Dickson, Jeremy Badoni, Sharmayne Frank, Jaycelene Frank, Katherine Hoptowit, Joyce Squimphen, Della Squimphen, and Teryl Florando; (and from the middle school) Anthony Blueback, Jason Smartlowit, Alyssa Tanewasha, Traci Colwash, Patti Tanewasha, Matthew Sconawah, Leonard American Horse, Adriel Pineda-Soto, Kameanna Lujan, and Martin Smith-Mennealy.

I would especially like to commend Tribal Youth Program workers JoDe Goudy, and Leland George for all their hard work for the elders.

— K'ona Foster J. Kalama

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