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# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Traditional weaving joins tribes, Maori

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Ranui Ngarimu has a soft voice, quick hands and a knack for weaving. Her fingers fly as she speaks, barely pausing as she explains the process of traditional Maori weaving. The feathers are the tricky part. They have to be woven in from bottom to top, to avoid having the previously-placed feathers get in the way of the process.

Ngarimu shows no sign of a struggle as she nimbly demonstrates.

She is part a group of Toi Maori people who visited Warm Springs for a showcase of traditional Maori weaving at the Museum at Warm Springs.

But she can't remember when she first started weaving.

"I've learned from the knees of many iconic Maori weavers," she said.

Ngarimu and other members of the Maori tribe of New Zealand traveled to Warm Springs as part of the new exhibit entitled "The Eternal Thread."

Though the live demonstrations took place from June 18 to June 23, the exhibit will be featured in the museum until September 9.

This is the fourth and final venue for the Maori, featuring a selection of cloaks (called kakahu), woven baskets (kete) and contemporary pieces.

Besides weaving, the group also demonstrated traditional song and dance and met with local weavers, artists and tribal elders.

They chose the Museum at Warm Springs as one of the venues for a specific reason, Ngarimu mentioned.

"It's really important that we make that connection with the indigenous people of Oregon," Ngarimu said.

According to their website (www.maoriart.org.nz), "The Museum At Warm Springs was chosen to be the destination for this inspiring, highly desired exhibition because Maori artists feel a special kinship with Native American artists of the Northwest."

The group stayed at the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort High Desert Resort and became quick fans of the surrounding area, Ngarimu said, adding, "The landscape is stunning."

For the most part, the exhibit surprised people—especially because a lot of them didn't know that such woven garments were still being made, Ngarimu said.

"They sort of gasp when they see it," she said. "They were just taken aback."

Six weavers traveled to Warm Springs for the exhibit, along with the chairperson of their organization.

The weavers are members of a national Maori weaving group in New Zealand called Te Roopu Raranga Whatu O Aotaroa.

The title of the exhibit is especially important, Ngarimu said, because it represents the thread of knowledge and tradition passed on from generation to generation.

"It's not only about weaving, it's about connecting with other people," she said.

Toi Maori is a charitable trust that represents 10 national Maori art committees.

The organization features everything from carvers to tattooists and musicians.

They strive to develop the artist and art form while still preserving a cultural identity and unique heritage. (See photos on page 12.)

## Gaming chairman discusses casino controversy

By David McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

In the past the tribes worked together, which is why the current controversy is such a disappointment. "I guess they don't look at history," said Ken Smith, chairman of the Kah-Nee-Ta board of directors.

In an interview for the KWSO Warm Springs show, Smith shared his views on the casino controversy that exists between the Confederated

Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The first thing that comes to mind, Smith said, is how in the past the tribes worked together. This was true especially during the 1980s, when the Grand Ronde tribes, which had been terminated in the 1950s, were restored as a federally recognized tribe.

In the 1980s Smith, a former general manager of the Warm Springs tribes, served as assistant Secretary of

the Interior in the Reagan administration. Pres. Reagan signed the Grand Ronde Restoration Act.

Later, when Smith returned to Oregon from Washington D.C., he worked as a consultant to tribes in the region.

He was a consultant, for instance, with the Grand Ronde, who were working at getting their timber property back. At the time, "There were great people in their leadership," he said.

Smith made good friends in Grand

Ronde, though in recent years he has not had contact with the Grand Ronde leadership.

"It's hard for me to see where they're coming from in opposing us," he said. "I am personally very disappointed in their leadership," he added. Warm Springs supported the Grand Ronde in their struggle to regain federal recognition and their tribal land, and in developing their government, he said.

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Spilyay tymoo

Wes and Meg Tucker are greeted by Chesley Yahtin and other veterans following the Saturday Pi-Ume-Sha Parade. Wes and Meg Tucker are the parents of U.S. Army Pfc. Tom Tucker, who was killed in June in Iraq.

The Tuckers were the guests of honor this year at Pi-Ume-Sha. Tribal drummers and singers performed an honor song in memory of Tom Tucker, and the fences around the powwow grounds and Warm Springs were tied with hundreds of yellow ribbons.

## Graduates enjoy celebration dinner

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Direlle Calica remembers one influential moment from her high school graduation.

Thirteen years ago she received a poster as a gift—a poster that said "Success is not a destination, but it is a journey."

Those were words that Calica passed on to the class of 2006 on

June 22, when she delivered the keynote address at the celebration sponsored by the Tribal Education Committee and the Tribal Court.

Whatever the graduates choose to do next, Calica said, "Getting there is going to be part of the fun."

Calica left Warm Springs to go to college, and she graduated law school a year ago. Now she works for the Northwest Division of the Army Corps

of Engineering.

"You are all the stewards of the future," she told the graduating class.

Families and community members gathered in the Agency Longhouse to enjoy a dinner prepared by the Simnasho Vols. High school graduates were presented with a book, while higher education graduates were presented with bags.

See GRADUATES on 13



The 4-H Social Dancers ride in the Pi-Ume-Sha Traditional Parade on Saturday afternoon (far left photo).

Joann Scott was named Miss Pi-Ume-Sha 2006 (photo at left).

More Pi-Ume-Sha pictures on pages 8 and 9.