

Camp Sap-Si-Kwat educates children and their parents

By Leslie Mitts
Spiiyay Tymoo

Camp Sap-Si-Kwat has been around for awhile, but this year some changes were made.

For the first time, the annual children's camp was open to families and adults.

Char Herkshan is responsible for organizing the camp that took place August 7 through August 11 in Elmer Quinn Memorial Park.

"This has been an ongoing camp here for many, many years," she said. "This is the first year that we've called it a family camp."

This year approximately 125 children and 80 adults attended the camp, though Herkshan said the number often varied. Tribal Court sponsored this year's camp.

The camp is based on teaching people about culture, and Herkshan said they spend the week doing a variety of activities.

For girls, that involves activities like making moccasins and medallions, or beading headbands or doing loom work.

For boys, the activities range from making bows and arrows, to painting rocks and making



Leslie Mitts/Spiiyay Tymoo

Girls demonstrate the beading they learned at camp.

dream catchers.

All of the kids go huckleberry picking, and Herkshan said it was one of their favorite activities—though sometimes a challenge to transport so many people.

"We were literally begging people with big vans," Herkshan said with a laugh.

"There's a whole spiritual and traditional talk that we give out there about protecting the berries and the land," Herkshan said. "It's an important thing to do."

"When the kids get their first picking they have to give it to

an elder or a widow or an orphan," she said. "That was a really wonderful day for us to do that."

Herkshan added, "Our basic foundation is our spirituality." Because of that, they spend time teaching children the meaning behind bell ringing or prayers.

When kids hear the bell ringing, they always come running, Herkshan said with a laugh, because "Either we're going to eat or they're going to tell us something."

For Herkshan, the camp is a bigger part of what she does for

work: she specializes in grief work, suicide prevention, crisis and trauma work, and working with veterans.

"I feel like I'm training all these young people," she said, and some of the participants are people in recovery.

According to Herkshan, "I think it's the greatest intervention we can do—preparing for life with our children. Teaching them skills and traditions other than their video games."

A big part of the camp's success has revolved around working with families.

This year the camp became family-based because of actions in prior years.

Before, Herkshan said, parents would come with their children and wouldn't know how to do things like make moccasins or other types of traditional or cultural activities.

"They would feel uneasy or uncomfortable," Herkshan said. "A lot of the families lost that knowledge."

This year parents have the opportunity to learn alongside their children, and Herkshan believes it is important to teach

as many people as possible.

Herkshan's favorite part is seeing the children evolve over the week.

"Sometimes when the kids come here they're really apprehensive. They don't know the kids here," she said. "Then as you watch them through the weeks it is such a wonderful experience to see them become friends."

In the end, Herkshan said, "You know you make a difference. Everything you do here touches hearts."

Falls fishery open to tribal members

The 2006 fall Chinook fishery at Sherars Falls is open for the Warm Springs Tribal members.

The fishery will remain open for subsistence fishing until a harvest cap of 600 wild adult chinook salmon is reached.

The 2006 pre-season prediction indicates that a "run" of Upriver Bright fall Chinook in the Columbia River mainstem is estimated to reach 249,100.

Larry Holliday, fisheries harvest manager, said "The fishery at Sherars Falls for fall Chinook and steelhead is pretty slow at this time."

According to Holliday, "Fisheries staff have been monitoring the Bonneville Dam fish counts and there is approximately 300 to 500 Chinook coming over the dam daily at this time."

However, Holliday said, "The fishery will possibly pick up in the next two to three weeks."

In recognition of traditional fishing, tribal fishing will not be allowed from Sunday at 12:00 a.m. until Monday at 6:00 a.m.

Fishing will be allowed during the remaining six days per week for both scaffold and hook and line fishing.

Pacific lamprey (eel) harvesting will be allowed during the entire fall fishing season.

The commercial sale of fish is not allowed, and the use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited.

The Department of Natural Resources, Ranger Program and the police department will monitor the Sherars Falls area to ensure that these regulations are not being violated.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries staff will monitor the tribal harvest and fish escapement over the Bonneville and the Dalles dams and fish escapement above Sherars Falls to determine if in-season harvest medications will

be necessary.

Tribal Council approved and passed Resolution number 10648 for the fall Chinook fishery, which opened on August 1.

Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spiiyay Tymoo is **Friday, August 25**. Thank you.

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Senior Picnic at the Cove

The Senior Picnic will on Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Cove State Park. Come join the elders for a picnic and cruise the lake on patio boards.

Volunteers are needed to help with the picnic. The cooks will be starting at 9 a.m.

For additional information call the Senior Building at 553-3313.

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