

MHS students celebrate military service with JROTC

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Hands shoot into the air when American Indian students in the JROTC class at Madras High School are asked who is planning to go into the military later in life.

The participation of American Indians in the United States military is something that dates back 200 years—and it is something that relates directly to Warm Springs today.

When it comes to fellow tribal members in the army, members of the JROTC at Madras High School can rattle off a long list—both of people currently serving and of local veterans.

For some, those people serve as inspiration as they participate in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Dorothy Howtopat is a senior cadet with the program, and said her participation prompted a change in behavior and in attitude.

"When I first came I used to get in trouble all the time,"

Howtopat said. "There's a lot of stuff here, you just have to take advantage of it and not goof off."

Ferman Tufti, a freshman at MHS, said, "I joined this class for respect."

The adrenaline rush is his favorite part, Tufti said—an opinion that his fellow students echoed.

The JROTC program aims to teach students discipline and the basics of the military, through marching and physical activity like competitive sports and push-ups.

Tufti and Howtopat are only two people in a large group of tribal member students participating in JROTC—some want to pursue a career in the military following graduation, others are taking the class because of interest.

All of them, however, expressed appreciation to those tribal members who are currently serving in the military.

At least 14 tribal members are known to be fighting in Iraq or are about to be deployed.

They are: Wynter Sky Smith, Lawren Slockish, Tashna S. Hicks, Hester L. Scott, Rose M. Sanchez, Charles Chaplin, Levi Dowty, George Boise, Austin L. Smith, Jr., Eric Langnese, Dustin Seyler, Jerome Henry and Larry Switzler.

Nearly 300 members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have served in the military since the beginning of World War II.

According to U.S. military documents, American Indians have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups.

The JROTC program prepares high school students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens.

According to the JROTC website, the program stimulates graduation from high school and it provides instruction and rewarding opportunities which will benefit the student, community, and nation.

JOM program helps students achieve academic success

By Leslie Mitts
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Steve Crane has a new title at the middle school this year—he is the new, full-time JOM teacher.

While the JOM program has been around for awhile, before it was always a half or quarter time position at the middle school.

JOM, Crane said, stands for Johnson O'Malley.

The Johnson O'Malley program was set up through a trust fund from the federal government in order to promote education in American Indian students.

The class he teaches now, Crane said, focuses on studying and learning habits.

"It's a study hall type class where we work on study skills and we work on work," Crane explained.

This year it involves more of a math focus, Crane said, especially because he spent the past three years teaching eighth grade math at JCMS.

"Every kids needs something different," Crane said.

Because of that the class sizes are kept small and limited to those students who really need extra help with their academic performance.

According to Crane, "Some just need time, other instruction."

From his previous experience coaching football, Crane said, he learned that many students just need a little extra time during their day to be able to complete their homework and to learn how to stay organized.

For those students, he said, the class gives them the time they need to get organized and complete assignments.

In the past, Crane added, only 10 to 12 students would get the opportunity to participate during the entire year.

This year, they're trying to spread it out to as many students as possible.

"Right now we started out with recommendations from last year's staff," Crane said.

Eventually, some students won't need the class anymore and they will move on to new recommendations from this year's staff.

"The kids we're looking for are the kids that are struggling," Crane explained.

He added, "It's those kids with the C's and the D's that could get straight A's."

The goal of the program, Crane said, is to ensure that these American Indian students are able to succeed when they go into high school.

Nez Perce unveil new casino

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) — A few minutes after Samuel N. Penney cut the ribbon on the Nez Perce Tribe's new casino, cherries and lemons flashed on slot screens and the sound of coins collecting bounced off the brand new walls.

About 100 people turned out for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday at the sparkling Clearwater River Casino, four miles east of Lewiston on U.S. Highway 12. The new 80,000-square-foot gambling hall features more than 600 slot machines.

Almost 10 years ago, Nez Perce Tribal members opened a small casino in an outdated building on the same street. Since then, the tribe planned to build a modern casino, said Penney, vice chairman of the tribe's executive committee.

"I think you're going to find that it's well worth the wait," he said.

The new casino features separate nonsmoking and smoking pits, divided by a restaurant and gift shop.

Gamers enter a wood-

framed foyer. One of the first to enter, Gwen Powauke of Lapwai, told The Lewiston Tribune he was struck by the elaborate colors.

"It's cool, a lot bigger," Powauke said, eyeing a slot machine. "New machines that they brought in, and hopefully more payoffs."

A three-story, 50-room hotel is still under construction.

The old casino will house conferences and other events. The building will also host the casino's long-running bingo games.

Penney said the new casino will create jobs and boost the pay of current tribal employees. But, the primary goal is to offer a unique opportunity for Idaho and Washington gamblers.

Penney and fellow tribal member Julia A. Davis-Wheeler cut the gold ribbon to let the first patrons in.

It wasn't until the doors opened that Yvonne Oberly, executive officer with Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, said she relaxed. She said she worked through the night to prepare for Friday's opening.

But she's not off the hook, yet. Oberly is working on plans for a week of grand opening festivities on Oct. 13-15.

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9/22 at The Dalles	
9/29 Home vs. Bend	((GO))
10/6 at Summit	
10/13 Home vs. Hermiston (Homecoming)	
10/20 at Mt View	
10/27 at Pendleton	
11/3 Home vs Crook County	
all Friday Night Home Games start at 7pm	

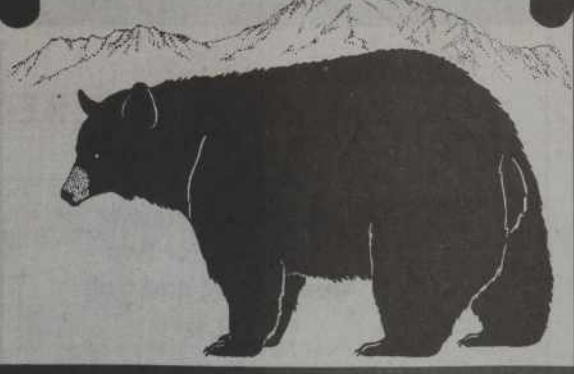
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