

Spilyay Tymooc

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Tribes join in honoring fallen fire fighters

By Nat Shaw
for the Spilyay Tymooc

BOISE, Idaho – A crowd of over 100 people gathered recently at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho for a ceremony honoring wildland firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Under a high overcast sky with the sun peeking through, slowly melting the snow on the ground, the crowd listened to a variety of high-ranking speakers.

The ceremony honored the placing of commemorative markers at the Wildland Firefighters Monument. The all-encompassing ceremony included recognition of American Indian Heritage Month and the role played by Native Americans in Wildland Firefighting.

Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath was among the Native people who contributed to the program. Chief Heath spoke of the sacrifices made by the firefighters that were being honored and sang an Honor Song saluting the fallen firefighters. It was an emotional presentation as many in the crowd, struggled to maintain their composure.

Tim Murphy, Deputy Director of the BLM Office of Fire and Aviation was the master of ceremonies. BIA Fire Director Lyle Carlile, National Park Service Fire Director, Mike Wallace, U.S. Forest Service Assistant Fire Director, Karyn Wood,

Idaho Senator Mike Crapo's Staff Assistant Sandra Bachman, Vicki Minor, the Executive Director of the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, Dave Mueller, Wildland Firefighter Task Group, Burk Minor, Wildland Firefighter Foundation and Bodie Shaw, Wildland Firefighter Task Group, all spoke paying tribute to the memory of courageous firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Vicki Minor, executive director of the Wildland Firefighter Founda-



Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath spoke during the honor ceremony, along with Tim Murphy, deputy director of the BLM office of fire and aviation.

tion, explained that the monument is a place for "firefighters (and their families) to come and grieve and breathe and remember." The Monument was dedicated in 2000 to establish a place for honoring and remembering all wildland firefighters, past, present and future.

As a special tribute to the contributions of Ms. Minor and the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, Chief Heath assisted Bodie Shaw, Warm Springs tribal member and Deputy Chief of the BIA NIFC, in awarding Vicki a Pendleton blanket. Vicki Minor's foundation has played an increasingly vital role in assisting the families of fallen firefighters with both financial and spiritual support. Ms. Minor and her

family started the foundation a few years after the Storm King fire in Colorado that took the lives of nine Central Oregon firefighters.

Reading prepared remarks from Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, Sandra Bachman said, "Bodie Shaw, Deputy Chief at the BIA NIFC office, said there were nearly 80,000 Indians enrolled in the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the late 1930s and early 1940s. In addition to working on many public land construction programs, the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps helped build up fire protection systems that are still in use today, almost seventy years later. Lookout tow-

ers, fire cabins and many miles of phone lines, in and outside of Indian country, all helped fire suppression efforts over the decades."

A large segment of Indians in attendance wore regalia. Many Native employees participated as did the Native American Coalition of Boise (NACOB).

The Umatilla Inter-tribal Drum contributed a powerful performance, singing an honor song as part of the ceremony. BIA Training Officer, Ed Secakuku, a Northern Ute Indian, mesmerized the audience with his hand drum and singing a Northern Ute Flag Song.

See FIRE FIGHTERS on 11

Foster homes in short supply

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymooc

Reona Trimble is exactly like many single mothers: loving, hard working and occasionally slightly overwhelmed with work and responsibility.

The difference can be seen through the children in her home.

While Trimble has two of her own children, she also serves as a foster parent.

Five years ago, Trimble said, she had a coworker who was a foster parent with Child Protective Services (CPS).

Trimble was curious enough to contact CPS and go through the screening process.

Now she has had 11 foster children go through her home—including two that have remained with her permanently.

It's something that Trimble encourages other parents to participate in.

"I encourage it because it's rewarding in a lot of ways," she explained. But, Trimble cautioned, becoming a foster parent isn't necessarily for everyone.

She added, "You're just going to have to try it to find out if it works."

Trimble thinks the reason she is successful as a foster parent can be credited to her mother—when Trimble was younger, she often saw her mother welcoming other into her home.

According to Trimble, "I'm hoping that's what rubbed off on me."

Because she works at ECE, Trimble said, it can be especially easy to incorporate younger children into her life, though she has also cared for some teenagers and older children.

As a single parent, Trimble said the best part about being a foster parent is seeing the reaction from the children.

See FOSTER PARENT on 10

Aguilar wins book award

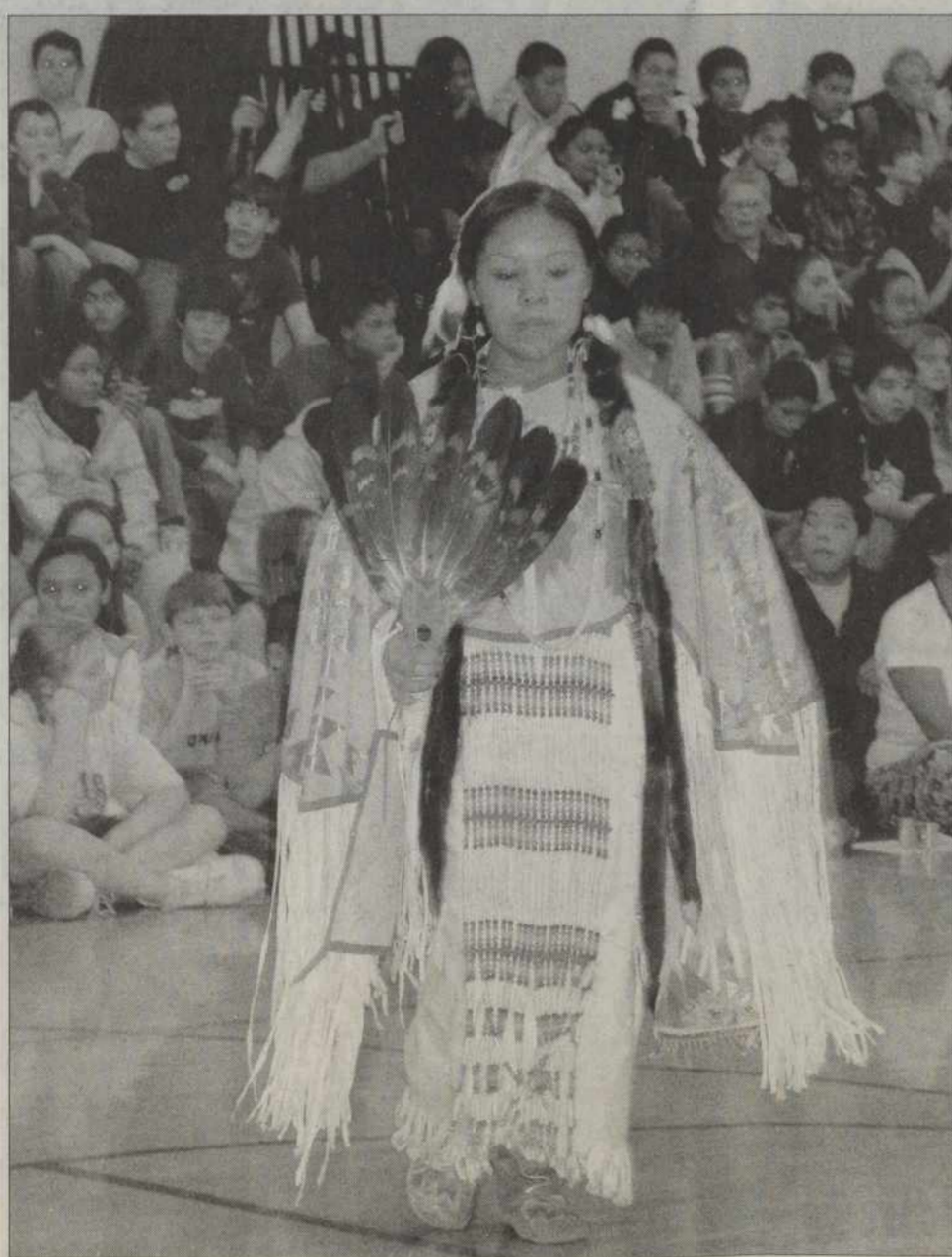
George W. Aguilar Sr. has won a 2006 Oregon Book Award for "When the River Ran Wild! Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and Warm Springs Reservation."

At the awards ceremony last week in Portland, Aguilar won the Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction.

"When the River Ran Wild!" is an important contribution to the history of the author's people," said category judge Jonathan Yardley, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer. "Fishing, hunting, farming and ordinary daily life are discussed here in great and unflinching detail."

Aguilar has lived on the Warm Springs Reservation for 70 years and worked as a fisherman, carpenter, mechanic and at numerous other jobs. His book is both a memoir and a detailed cultural history of the Mid-Columbia tribes. Among other talents, Aguilar is an ethnobotanist.

The 2006 Oregon Book Award is dedicated, Aguilar has said, "To those who were, to those who are, and to those who are to come." The Oregon Book Awards are presented by the Literary Arts organization.



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Students demonstrated traditional dancing at the annual Native American Assembly at Jefferson County Middle School on Nov. 21. The assembly celebrates Native American Month and teaches students about several cultural aspects. Foster Kalama and Leland George performed flute music, and the Pine Grove Juniors provided a drumming group for the event.

Community meeting on new high school

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymooc

Representatives from the future Willow Creek Community High School last week held an informational meeting for the Warm Springs community.

The meeting aimed to inform community members about the new high school set to open in September.

Students will receive personalized educations in the new, small school that will include community and family engagements, real-world learning and college preparation.

In order to prepare them for the real world, students will complete internships with local businesses—for some that will involve working with businesses in Warm Springs, according to Principal Julie Lafayette.

"This is a school that will rely quite a bit on our community," she said.

For instance, a student interested in history could potentially complete an internship at the museum and learn about everything in that field.

For that reason, Lafayette said, she

plans to hold parent meetings and inform local businesses about the opportunity to work with students.

Ideally, students will be able to work in a field that they plan to pursue as a career choice. According to Lafayette, this type of school has been very successful in other states.

For the students, she said, it is especially worthwhile.

Lafayette said, "They come out being very, very confident and very articulate."

The students also leave the school with the knowledge of what it is like to work in the real world.

"That's one of the key pieces, is that we make learning meaningful," Lafayette explained.

The school will reflect the current demographics at Madras High School—which means that 32 percent of the school's students will be Native American. Students at Willow Creek Community High School will still participate in athletic activities at Madras High School.

See HIGH SCHOOL on 11

Tree lighting and lights parade tonight

The annual Christmas tree lighting is at 6 o'clock this evening, Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Community Cen-

ter. The car light parade and holiday barbeque are also tonight.