

# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Steelhead again in Wychus Creek

### Part of tribal, PGE fish passage project

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath's voice rang out as he sang a song of blessing on the banks of Wychus Creek, the steady sound of water echoing behind him.

A few feet away from Chief Heath sat coolers and buckets containing 200,000 steelhead fry to be released into the creek by the crowd of nearly 50 volunteers—marking the first time steelhead expected to migrate past the Pelton Round Butte dams since 1968.

Volunteers and employees from each of the various organizations represented spread downstream to release the tiny fish on May 12.

According to Heath, "The water is number one; it takes care of the life of everything."

That includes the lives of larger, predatory fish expected to consume some of the steelhead—only one to five percent of the fry are expected to survive the first few years.

However, those that do survive will be the first to migrate through

the area in nearly half a century.

It's all being made possible because of a new fish passage system being constructed as part of partnership between Portland General Electric (PGE) and the tribes.

Steven Marx, acting Deschutes District watershed manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the event was only one of many that will lead to success.

"It's an important juncture," he said. "There's a lot more to do."

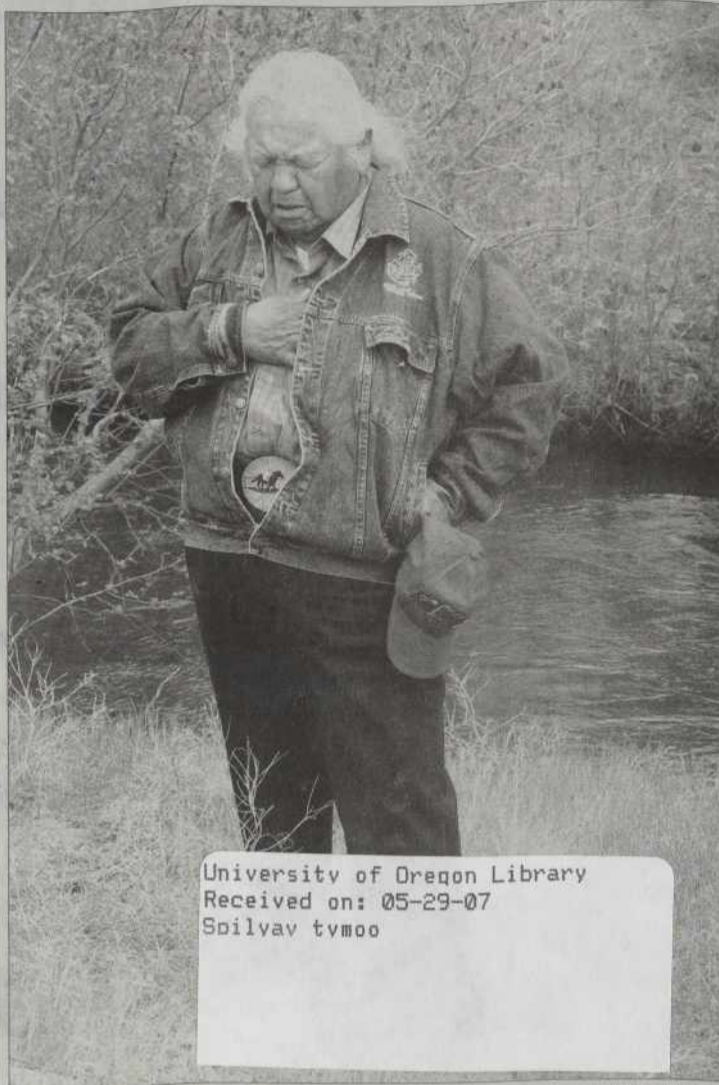
Tod Heisler, executive director of the Deschutes River Conservancy, said the event captured a moment of what has been a 10-year-long project.

"Hopefully we'll look back on this day, 50 years from now, and say we were there," Heisler told the volunteers and assembly of media.

As little as five years ago during the summer, Heisler added, the creek and surrounding streams were completely dry because of the lack of water.

For that reason, he said, they plan to work closely with irrigators in order to ensure the survival of as many steelhead as possible.

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Delvis Heath blesses the fish released by the volunteers.

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## Pi-Ume-Sha gearing up

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are preparing for the biggest weekend of the year on the reservation. Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days this year is marking its 38th Anniversary.

The powwow will be June 22-24 at the Community Center fields. The theme of Pi-Ume-Sha this year is "Continuing Our Traditional Values."

Grand Entries are at 7 p.m. on Friday, on Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 2 p.m. The Traditional Dress Parade is at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Dance contests are throughout the weekend.

The powwow includes the Grand Entries, honored guests, dance contests and specials, drum contests, stick game tournament, boxing, softball, the all-Indian rodeo and endurance horse race, the Fun Run, food and other vendors.

This year there will be a special exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs, during Pi-Ume-Sha. The exhibit is titled "Remembering Celilo Falls" and opens on Thursday, June 21.

For powwow vendor information, contact Cassie Katchia at 553-7015; endurance race, Doris Miller, 553-3257; rodeo, Sammy Bruisedhead, 553-1856; fry bread open golf tourney, golf pro at Kah-Nee-Ta, 553-1112; fun run, community center at 553-3243.



The Warm Springs 4-H Social Dance Club took the stage at the fourteenth annual Collage of Culture last weekend, demonstrating what they've learned for the crowd.

Also during the event, Louie Pitt, director of tribal Governmental Affairs, gave a unity speech; and the current Miss Warm Springs, Sallie Polk-Adams, delivered the Lord's Prayer in Indian sign language.

The Collage of Culture took place at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madras. It started as a music event in 1993 and has since grown into a celebration of music, dance, food, art and other entertainment. The Collage of Culture is designed to celebrate the diversity of Central Oregon.

## Students develop craft of digital storytelling

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

If someone asks Joanne Scott why being Native American matters to her, she now has a digital montage of photos she can offer up as an answer.

For Scott, it's all part of a project incorporating her favorite things—and she is one of many local students taking culture to a digital level with a new class at Madras High School.

Scott is enrolled in the Digital Storytelling class, and said she chose to incorporate her culture into the project because of the influence it has on her life.

"I think it's important," the 18-year-old senior said. "It's important to me."

Scott has also completed a project about eagles that included different photos and discussions of freedom.

Deanna Epley teaches the class

at Madras High School and said it features three different levels: beginning, advanced, and advanced-advanced.

Originally the class began about a year ago and was tested out on a pilot student.

That same student is now serving as a teacher's assistant to the class, and has completed a plethora of projects.

Jonathan Lydy, 18, is the student with whom it all started.

The list of projects he's completed is extensive, but Lydy does have a few favorites.

A project about Tom Tucker, the soldier from Madras who was killed in action in Iraq, was presented at recent Veteran's Day events and is one of which Lydy is especially proud.

Currently Lydy is using a new project as a fundraiser for the senior class. He's creating a senior video that will include pictures, videos and interviews from seniors at MHS and said they plan to sell copies of it.

Because of that, Lydy said, he has

to learn about copyright regulations in order to include songs.

Plus, Lydy said, he's learned a lot about public speaking through the course.

"It's kind of nice to be able to talk on your videos," he added. "It makes it easier."

In addition to learning about his fellow students through their projects, Lydy said, "I learned a lot about myself."

Epley was able to begin the class after being awarded two grants that provided the funds.

Only 12 students are able to take the class at one time—something Epley said contributes to its success.

Because the class is grant-funded, it allows some control over the size. Epley is therefore able to spend more one-on-one time with each student.

Projects required vary from edited photographs to longer projects that students must create, narrate and present using original work created during the

semester.

Besides using photographs and other images, students must learn how to incorporate audio clips and videos.

Everything has to be orchestrated, Epley said. "The music has to enhance the project," she explained.

Many students choose to create a family album, Epley said, using photographs and audio clips that they create.

"What a wonderful way to be able to hold this in your family," she said.

Students learn about different elements of the digital world as they are required to include them in their projects, Epley said.

"It's really important that they're able to take what is out there," Epley said.

Pacing is key, Epley said, and it's something that many of the students pick up readily.

According to Epley, "Most of the kids intuitively have that feeling."

She added, "It's very important for

them to simplify."

Plus, Epley added, the experience they gain in class will give the students useful knowledge for later in life.

"They can be very, very comfortable with skills to take outside the school," Epley said.

Epley speaks enthusiastically about the progress students have made and the feelings they are able to convey through a digital medium—for instance, one student's project about the Trail of Tears features a combination of videos from other sources.

But, Epley said, "She's pulled her own emotion into the piece to be able to add to it."

And trying to get the students to speak about their projects is no easy task—the shy group seems much more confident speaking through the words that appear on their computer screens.

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