

## Locals featured in upcoming book

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

As many as eight tribal members will be featured in an upcoming book of portrait photography.

Ben Marra, a Seattle-based photographer, began a project to document powwows through photography in 1988.

He and his wife Linda run their company, Ben Marra Photography, and travel around to powwows. While he works as a photographer, Linda Marra works as a producer and documentarian.

Gary Villa Sohappy, Leona A. Ike, Kayla Johnson, Sparrowhawk Walsey, Christine Johnson, Cecilia Herrera, Ron Walsy and James Walsey are all currently included in the photographs—but Linda Marra said the end result will depend on how many photographs the publishers decide to include.

Because of that, she said, it is possible that not all of the tribal members will be included in the final product. Marra said they expect the book to be published in early 2009.

The book will be a retrospective of the Marra's past 20 years photographing powwows and portraits of powwow dancers.

Approximately 150 photographs will be featured.

Marra initially began photographing powwows after a client sought to promote color-printing techniques.

Rather than typical images, Marra convinced the client to use photographs of local Native Americans.

That weekend, the Marra's traveled to a powwow and after that their photodocumentary project officially began.

While Marra does photograph dancing, his style of portrait photography is unmatched.

In fact, it's the portraits that Marra photographs that set him apart from other photographers.

"We have the largest contemporary portfolio of this type of work existing on the planet," Linda Marra said. "I'm not saying that there aren't some people photographing portraits out there, but no one has done this for 20 years to the extent that we have."

According to Ben Marra, "We have thought that you know, anybody, a lot of photographers could stand around the circle and get grab shots of dancers. We



Gary Villa Sohappy is one tribal member who Ben Marra photographed for the upcoming book.

didn't start out that way, we started with the thought of actually doing portraits of the people."

In addition to the photographs, Linda Marra said, "We have personal narratives that we have collected over the last 20 years."

Each photograph will be accompanied by a written narrative in the dancer's own words—expressing why they dance, what it means to them and much more.

According to Ben Marra, the narratives serve to "give a fuller picture of who they are rather than just looking at a two-dimensional image of them. It kind of rounds out the mental image of the person that they're looking at."

Some of the text is from several years ago, but Linda Marra said, "As long as the text seems to be still relevant today, then that is what will accompany their

photo." Portraits can be especially difficult to shoot, Linda Marra said, because often they only have a brief moment between dances to do so.

In fact, the portraits have been taken in some less than pristine conditions, Linda Marra added.

They've set up their equipment in places like airplane hangars and abandoned dog kennels, to name a few examples.

"We have adapted quite well and realize its such a wonderful opportunity to us," Linda Marra said.

The Marra's produce two international calendars annually: Native American Dance and Powwow: Portraits of Native Americans.

The calendars are available at a discount to native youth groups for fund-raising.

In addition, their award-win-

ning book "Powwow: Images Along the Red Road" is in its eighth printing.

The Marra's museum exhibition, "Faces from the Land" is currently traveling the country.

## Births

Jeffery Allen James-Mathison

Jeffery A. Mathison Jr. and Johanna P. James-Mathison are pleased to announce the birth of their son Jeffery Allen James-Mathison. The baby was born on December 17.

Jeffery joins brother Milan Andrew, 1 1/2 years, and sister Elizabeth Betty, 6 years.

Paternal grandparents are Jeffery Mathison Sr. and Jolanda Ingram-Marshall. Maternal grandparents include the late Aaron James Sr. of Nespelem, Washington, and Brenda Smith-Strom of Warm Springs.

Bavis J'Dean Thompson

Sarah and Curtis Thompson are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Bavis J'Dean Thompson, on November 28.

Bavis was born at St. Anthony Hospital at 1:26 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, two ounces and was 20.5 inches tall. Paternal grandparents the late Leland and the late Deanna Thompson of Warm Springs. Maternal grandparents are the late Carol Burke and Elvis Frank.

Maylene Ellen Smith

Louis Donald Smith and Angeledith Saramaylene Kalama are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Maylene Ellen Smith on December 26.

The baby joins brother Matthew Miles Smith, 16 months. Paternal grandparents are Austin Smith Sr. and Lois Squiemphen of Warm Springs. Maternal grandmother is Dorothy Kalama of Warm Springs.

Evaristo Jesus Antunez Jr.

Evaristo Antunez Sr. and Taima Antunez are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Evaristo Jesus Antunez Jr., born on December 8, 2007.

Evaristo joins sisters Elizabeth, 4, Angeles, 1 and Dahlana, 8. Paternal grandparents are Inez and Angeles Antunez of Lake Villa, IL. Grandparents on the mother's side are Christine and Leroy Smith of Warm Springs.

Keith Duane Moody Jr.

Keith and Nadine Moody are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Keith Duane Moody Jr., on Nov. 29.

Keith Jr. joins siblings Armina Moody, 23, Jacqueline Moody, 20, Joshua Moody, 18, Kelli Moody, 16, Anevay Perez, 16, Rica Perez, 13, Kiana Moody, 7.

Maternal grandparents are Bernice and John Meraz. Paternal grandparents are Charlotte and Enos Herkshan. The baby was born at St. Charles in Bend.

## Health and Wellness Center laboratory department honored

The Laboratory Department at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has met all criteria for Laboratory Accreditation by COLA, a national healthcare accreditation organization. Accreditation is given only to laboratories that apply rigid standards of quality in day-to-day operations, demonstrate continued accuracy in the performance of proficiency testing, and pass a rigorous on-site laboratory survey. Our Laboratory Department has earned COLA accreditation as a result of long-term commitment to provide quality service to their patients.

COLA is a nonprofit, physician-directed organization promoting quality and excellence in medicine and patient care through programs of voluntary education, achievement, and accreditation.

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center now features improved patient check-in for laboratory appointments.

Laboratory patients will

now be checked in for their appointments at the Patient Registration desk upon entering the clinic. This is the same for all patients checking in at the clinic. The process will speed up the patient visit and help laboratory patients move through the clinic more efficiently.

When a patient receives a letter or phone call telling them that laboratory testing is recommended by their healthcare provider, they will need to stop at the Patient Registration desk to check in. Here, the Registration Clerk will check the patient into the laboratory appointment scheduler and print the orders to the laboratory printer. This is how the staff knows the patient is ready. The staff will then call the patient directly into the laboratory drawing room. Patients will no longer have to check into the 'lab' window because it has already been done by Patient Registration. Also, it is not necessary to ring the bell anymore unless it has been 15 minutes since check-in.

A patient used to make 2-3

additional stops before being called into the lab. Now they only need one stop—the front Patient Registration desk. Patients now only have to check in and have a seat. The laboratory staff will be with them shortly. Many patients have told us that this is an improvement and they are happy with how quickly they are in and out of the laboratory.

If for some reason Patient Registration does not find lab orders in the computer for the patient checking in, the clerk will let the patient know and they will need to go to Medical Reception to check in so lab tests can be ordered and printed by the clinic staff.

We hope you are happy with the changes we are making to improve your care! If you have any further suggestions for how we can improve, please use our Suggestion Box, located in the Pod B waiting room, outside the Business Office.

  
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