



Spilyay Tymo

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50 cents

Coyote News, est. 1976

June 5, 2008 Vol. 33, No. 12

Madras High School Class of 2008



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Over 50 seniors from Warm Springs (many pictured above at school) will graduate from Madras High School on Saturday, June 7. The graduation ceremony begins at 3 p.m., and will be held at the high school football field. The tribes' and the Education Department will host the Graduation Banquet at the Agency Longhouse on the evening of Wednesday, June 18. The banquet is for all tribal members who are graduating from high school, boarding school, technical school, college and graduate school, or receiving their GED. (See pages 8 and 9 for MHS graduate pictures.)

Grant awarded for media center

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymo

Plans for the new tribal media center are moving forward. Most recently, the tribes received a grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust for \$150,000. The funding is designated for the use of building the media center.

In addition to the latest grant, the new building is being funded in part by the Confederated Tribes, and through a grant to KWSO from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The money from the tribes was arranged to come from the general fund as advocated by atwai Warren "Rudy" Clements, whose dream for a media center will be realized when the building is completed, perhaps this year.

Mr. Clements served as director of tribal relations until his passing, and had a longtime goal of consolidating the tribal media into one building.

According to media advisor Bill Rhoades, Clements envisioned a media center capable of housing KWSO, Spilyay Tymo and even potentially a television station if one is created in the future.

Staff members have sought ways to complete the project for several years, and are now able to complete the building with the help of the additional grant money.

"Rudy had a vision," Rhoades explained. "Every time we would stumble and fall, he would always encourage us to get back up and try and find a new angle, try and find some new way to make this happen."

The building will be located on Highway 3 just above the intersection with Highway 26, before the industrial park.

The 3,000-square-foot building will be named the "Warren R. Clements Media Center."

Grant applications are still being considered that would make it possible to power the building with solar panels in order to save money for the tribes on utility bills; and the building will feature environmentally-friendly bamboo floors.

The media center was designed by Portland architect Don Livingstone, and will include modern studios and office space for KWSO and Spilyay Tymo staff.

In addition to benefiting media staff by allowing them to collaborate, the new media center will benefit KWSO by bringing the radio station closer to the Warm Springs community.

KWSO has been housed in its current locations since the 1970s. The Spilyay has been in the house on Wasco Street, on the campus, for about eight years.

The Meyer Memorial Trust was created by the late Fred G. Meyer, who built the chain of retail stores bearing his name throughout the Pacific Northwest.

When Meyer died in 1978 at the age of 92, his will established the trust, which began operating in 1982.

The Meyer Memorial Trust is a private, independent foundation representing Mr. Meyer's personal philanthropy.

The new media center could be completed by the end of 2008, according to the current plan.

Inspiring message at youth conference

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymo

Shouts of "Native pride!" rang out in the community center gymnasium last week, as Clayton Small spoke to the crowd at the Northwest Indian Youth Conference.

"You have to—in your heart of hearts—always be proud to be an Indian," Small told the youth attending the conference. He encouraged them to voice their pride by standing in the bleachers and yelling it out.

Small was one of various speakers at the Northwest Indian Youth Conference, held in Warm Springs last week.

As the keynote speaker during the final day of the conference, Small gave a presentation to the youth called "Step Up—We Need Your Voices."

"That's the responsibility of every young leader in this house—you have to step up; you have to find your voice," Small said.

He spoke of the challenges Native youth are faced with throughout their lives, and of his own challenges growing up surrounded by violence and alcoholism.

A representative from the Northern Cheyenne reservation, Small told the youth, "Young people, you have to make that decision, if you haven't already, that 'my life is going to be different.'"

As the first child in his family to graduate college, Small said, he learned the importance of education.

"Education is a major goal that you should have in your future—the highest degree possible," Small said.

Small also hosted a workshop on Native Hope along with Char Herkshan—one of the many workshops available to groups of youth who traveled to the regional conference this year.

From learning Native crafts to learning about health and social issues, youth attended workshops throughout the

four-day concert aimed to enlighten them and give them a chance to interact with youth from other tribes.

The conference also featured a hip-hop dance, basketball tournament, 5K run or walk, round dance, art show, fashion show and ended with a powwow on Friday night.

Local youth, coordinated by Jaylyn Suppah, organized the event and held weekly planning meetings for several months prior to the concert.

The event featured the theme "the ancestors will be our strength for the future."

This conference marks a return to Warm Springs after the event began here 33 years ago.

According to the official youth conference website, the theme will serve to help youth carry forward the values and traditions of their elders.

The mission statement says, "As youth it is our responsibility to carry forward the torch and uphold those cultural values and walk in that strength that our ancestors portrayed in their walk of life."

Various local youth attended the conference and said the experience was educational for them.

Robinique Hatlestad, 14, said she learned about bridging the gap between youth and elders in order to learn from each other.

In addition, she said, she was able to meet new people from Washington, Nevada and as far away as Florida.

"I've learned that it's good to meet new people," Hatlestad said, and added, "You need to talk to your elders."

Victoria Spino, 14, agreed and said, "I made a lot of new friends and I learned a lot of different things."

Norene Sampson, 15, decided to attend the conference for the same reasons as many of the youth—to make new friends and learn about new things.

In Sampson's opinion, "The three-on-three basketball tournament was the



Tonya Thompson/Spilyay

The conference kicked off with a parade through the community. Elyse Bagley, Junior Miss Warm Springs (below), joined youth who carried signs or decorated vehicles to represent their tribes.

Solo Greene (left) spoke to youth as one of several keynote speakers during the event. (More photos of the 2008 Northwest Indian Youth Conference on page 5.)



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

best."

Though she's attended conferences before, Sampson said, they were different from the NWIYC.

Her only regret, Sampson said, is that "I was expecting more people."

It's an opinion shared by Hatlestad, who said, "More people should have come from different places."

Amanda Yazzie, 15, is a local student who was drawn to the conference by her friends though she didn't attend until the second day.

"Everyone was telling me how fun it was and stuff," she explained.

Lawrence Shike, 16, also started attending the conference after the first few days, and said, "I just came to see other tribes and see how it is."

"I did learn a lot," Shike added.

When the first conference was hosted in Warm Springs 33 years ago, tribes traveled from Portland and Lapwai, Idaho.