



# Spilyay Tymoo

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Brent Merrill photo courtesy of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum (left) and Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath rode in the parade at the Nesika Illahee Powwow, hosted this month by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

## Fish habitat, passage improving

Crews this week are working on a gravel placement program on the Deschutes River, just upstream from the Warm Springs Bridge. The workers are on both the reservation and non-reservation sides of the river.

The work, sponsored by the Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric, involves placement of gravel in configurations designed to mimic natural gravel bars.

The work is part of an overall fisheries improvement program by the tribes and PGE, as a result of relicensing of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project.

The upstream dams have stopped periodic flooding that brought gravel and logs downstream, creating spawning grounds. The current project is intended to mimic this process.

Scientists will monitor transport of the gravel by river flows and its use by spawning salmon and trout to determine if similar projects might help improve fisheries on the Deschutes.

Meanwhile, the tribes and PGE are restoring fish passage around the Pelton and Round Butte dams through a unique, 273-foot underwater tower and fish collection station.

The new underwater tower is designed to modify currents and temperatures to mimic natural conditions and attract migrating fish into the collection facility. The fish will be sorted, and young salmon and steelhead will be trucked downstream below the dams to continue their journey to the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean.

When they return as adults, the fish reaching the lowest dam will be sorted, and the salmon and steelhead will be trucked above Round Butte Dam to reach the upstream rivers to spawn.

"The new tower is the result of a commitment the tribes made 10-plus years ago when relicensing was in its infancy," said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of the tribal Natural Resources Branch.

"This helps restore a fishery that has been a vital part of our culture," said Brunoe.

Construction on the project, which is located above Round Butte Dam in Lake Billy Chinook, is well underway with crews on target to have the facility constructed and operational in spring 2009, at a cost of about \$108 million.

## Kiksht the focus of HeHe language conference

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

The Kiksht language became a subject on many people's minds with an event at HeHe recently. The Language Program hosted a conference for those involved with the preservation of Kiksht. The conference was possible through a grant.

Apprentices Deanie Johnson and Pam Cardenas said the three-day event aimed to get more people involved with the preservation of Kiksht, the Wasco language. A requirement of receiving a particular grant was that they hold a conference, Johnson said.

Two days of the conference were dedicated to grammar lessons for employees of the language program. Hank Millstein, a linguist who had worked previously with the Language Program, traveled from California to conduct the lessons.

He helped them to understand more about how Kiksht works, Johnson said. For instance, he worked with them on tenses and how the language can break

down—in some cases one word can mean a whole sentence, she added.

Only two fluent speakers of Kiksht remain: Gladys Thompson of Warm Springs, and Nelson Moses from the Yakama reservation.

Moses also attended the conference, though he had to leave before it ended because of a death on his reservation, Johnson said.

Though Moses attends events with the Language Program when he is invited, Johnson said, it is often hard for him to find time.

Because Moses serves as a traditional religious leader in his community, he is often called upon to perform ceremonies. "He's a busy man," Johnson explained.

For the Kiksht language, Johnson, Cardenas and Valerie Switzler serve as apprentices. They spend time learning from Thompson, 93, who is also Johnson's grandmother.

Community members with Wasco heritage or with ties to the language were invited to the conference, Johnson said, and in particular elders who could

possibly help with the preservation efforts were sought out.

An invitation featuring a photo of Wasco elders was sent to many community members, but due to funerals a limited number were able to attend the conference. However, Cardenas said, those who were able to attend made the event very positive.

"I think it went well because of the elders that attended," Cardenas said.

Cardenas brought a book of old photos to the conference to use to spark conversation between elders, she said. Johnson said she felt the conference went well because her main goal was to inform the community about what they are doing to preserve the language as well as future plans. In addition, she said, she hoped to be able to draw more people in to help.

Besides local elders, Johnson said, several young people attended as well as teachers from the Early Childhood Education program and two committee members from the Culture and Heritage Committee.

In addition to other activities, Valerie

Switzler gave a presentation about time she spent in Hawaii for a study abroad program. Switzler is currently attending college in Kansas and spent time in Hawaii learning about language immersion programs.

In Johnson's opinion, the entire conference was an uplifting experience.

"Sometimes we feel, or I feel, like we're all alone and nobody else cares," Johnson said, but the event helped bring more people together.

The grant money that paid for the conference is only part of the financial assistance they are receiving as part of their language preservation efforts, Johnson added. "It's grants that are carrying this language," Johnson said. "It's helped up tremendously."

They also wished to thank Neda Wesley and Eliza Brown-Jim, as well as their helpers, for the wonderful meal they prepared at the conference.

Cardenas and Johnson said they plan to hold a conference next summer as well.

## Career takes pharmacist to many countries

Justine Thomas  
Spilyay Tymoo

A career in medical pharmaceuticals has led one tribal member all over the world before returning to Central Oregon. Marcella (Brunoe) Barta was always interested in pharmaceuticals. She started working at the Health and Wellness Center 16 years ago, when she was 16. Barta is the daughter of Garland and Suzan Brunoe.

After graduating from Madras High School in 1994 Barta joined the Youth With The Mission (YWTM), and traveled to China, New Zealand, the Cook Islands and Hawaii.

She stayed in Hawaii for a year, going to a training school where she met her husband. After her training school Barta and her husband went as a team

to Australia for two months.

According to Barta, "I loved school, I want to go back."

After Barta's YWTM experience she moved to Minnesota where she attended school for seven years.

Barta spent three years learning about pre-pharmacy and four years in pharmacy school where she kept a 4.0 GPA.

Barta got into a pharmacy program designed for Native Americans. Barta also used this program when she was still in high school to get an idea and feel for her dream of working in a pharmacy.

"The helped me out a lot," Barta said. The program she went through gave her free summer tutoring, and summer classes to prep for the next school year.



Marcella Barta

Barta did a general practice pharmacy residency at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland

for one year. She practiced in oncology and pediatrics.

After college, Barta worked at OHSU after her residency for two years in pediatrics, then worked in southwest Washington medical center for six months in neonatology. When she moved to Bend in 2006, because of her husband's job, she started commuting to work at the Safeway in Madras for one year.

Barta is now working at St. Charles as a full-time night pharmacist.

In Barta's opinion, completing her education was extremely important. "I know it is very important, even though I had to go to school for so long and work so hard," Barta said. "It is important to get your degree and be able to support yourself and your family."

## Labor Day weekend activities at museum

The Museum at Warm Springs and the Lensch Fund will present a Labor Day weekend dance performance from 2-3 p.m. on Saturday, August 30.

The performance will be by the Unity Dance Group at the museum grounds.

### Living Traditions

From 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 30, the museum Living Traditions program will present a bead tapestry demonstration.

The demonstration, in the museum lobby, features Bead artisan Sandra McGill.

For more information call 553-3331.