



Spilyay Tymoo

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Oregon 150 events at Celilo in May

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

In mid May the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will host a gathering at Celilo, as part of the year-long Oregon 150 events.

The Oregon 150 events are commemorating the state's sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of statehood.

With direction from Tribal Council, special projects manager Doris "Teeny" Miller, and government af-

fairs director Louie Pitt have been planning the tribes' part in the Oregon 150 project.

The first question they faced was what kind of activity the tribes should host. As Pitt asked, "For an Indian tribe, what does statehood mean to us?"

The issue of the Ceded Lands comes to mind, he said, because a vast area of the state now consists of the 10 million acres of Ceded Lands.

And tribal members have treaty rights to the traditional use of the Ceded Lands. So the idea of coopera-

tion is involved, as the state has some regulatory authority over those lands.

The Confederated Tribes are also a major landowner in the state, with the reservation covering over 1,000 square miles.

The 1855 Treaty of the Middle Tribes of Oregon again comes to mind in that Oregon, in becoming a state in 1859, acknowledged the authority of the treaty.

So, Oregon 150 from a tribal perspective can be seen as an opportunity to educate people about who the tribes

are, said Louie Pitt.

The tribes decided to host their commemoration at the Celilo area.

Celilo was chosen because the area is central to the tribes of the region. Other tribes, state and other officials, and the public are invited.

The events are set for Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16.

The hope is to have a tribal canoe arrival from the river, and a horse parade and salmon bake, among other activities.

Museum upgrades complete

The Museum at Warm Springs has completed the improvements to the museum audio and visual systems.

The improvements are clear from the very start of the museum tour, during the introductory film, *According to the Earth*.

The film had been getting darker with age.

"It's like a new film now," said Carol Leone, museum director. "The color is much brighter and more beautiful."

The audio and visual elements of the exhibits have been digitized, which has many benefits, said Leone.

"We can add more features as we go along," she said. For instance, she said, examples of the three traditional languages of the tribes can be added.

With the recent improvements, the video shown in the theater at the end of the exhibit tour can be changed easily for different occasions.

The audio-visual upgrade at the museum was made possible through the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Challenge Fund, the Grand Ronde Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and the James and Marion Miller Fund. Total cost was over \$60,000.

The Museum is planning for further improvements as well, through the Heritage Exhibit Renewal Project.

The museum plans to bring in an exhibit designer to create master plan for enhancing and adding to the permanent exhibit. There is a plan for putting interpretative stations along the museum nature trail, and a plan for finishing the canoes that have been a work in progress.

Reflecting on tradition, education

The theme of her award-winning narrative is "Tradition is my life, education is my future." In her essay, Mariah Coffee writes about the importance of past generations and tradition, and the struggle for a better life through education.

Coffee won second place for her essay in a national competition conducted by the Office of Indian Education of the U.S. Department of Education. This is a great accomplishment, as the competition was open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students through grade 12.

Coffee, an eighth-grader at Jefferson County Middle School, said she not sure yet what she wants to do for her career after she graduates from school, although writing may be a possibility. Following is the personal narrative that Coffee submitted in the competition.



Eighth-grader Mariah Coffee won second place in the Office of Indian Education essay competition.

We as Natives have to pursue a better education and a better life for our families and others. Each day we wake up and go to school, life the daily lives that we have, but what we truly desire is an education that really makes a difference to everyone around us.

Native American students keep their culture close to their hearts, and their future set on the education they desire. What exactly happens on our pursuit of happiness? Sometimes we lose our way and even take a wrong turn. When we see what has hap-

pened we keep going and keep praying that it will get better. People doubt us, but they cannot see the real side of us beneath all of the lies and stereotypes. It does hurt; we are strong and we have a goal to fulfill. The hurt and pain will not stop us from getting our education and keeping our tradition alive.

Many ancestors have gone; it is up to us, the younger generation, to make a true difference for our family members who are struggling. We will show them that it is okay to fulfill your goals and still be able to keep your head held high.

I hope we as Natives can join together just like our ancestors did and help one another to get the life we have been longing to live.

The true question is: can we do it? Yes, we can if we truly try; we really want to pursue the education we need and still be able to teach our young ones everything we can so our culture can stay strong.

Nobody should just give up, if they cannot do something. They should think about the future and where they will be if they just give up.

Along the way we have touched

many people's hearts and changed their outlook on everyday life. We have taught so many people to just go for their goals without giving up, taught people how to live again, and we even learned more about ourselves than we ever thought possible. We found we have so many secrets that we have been hiding from our loved ones. When our journey comes to a conclusion, we will find out that the saying is true: Tradition is our life and education is our future.

By Mariah Coffee

Temporary cell towers installed

Verizon Wireless has installed two temporary cell phone towers on the reservation.

The towers will serve Verizon customers until the permanent towers are in place.

Verizon, which previously did not have service on the reservation, recently purchased Unicell, which did have service. In order for people with Unicell phones to have uninterrupted service, Verizon installed the temporary towers. (A letter from Verizon explaining the situation is on page 11.)

Museum Honor Dinner recognizes Gordon Smith and Chief Heath

Former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith and Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath will be honored at the annual Museum At Warm Springs Honor Dinner later this month.

Smith served on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs throughout his 12 years in the Senate. He will be presented with the museum Twanat Award, presented annually to an individual for outstanding service to Native Americans.

Chief Heath will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on behalf of the Museum at Warm Springs.

"Gordon Smith was a tireless advocate for the priorities and concerns of all of Oregon's nine federally recog-

nized tribes," said Carol Leone, museum director.

Chief Heath, she said, "has served his people with passion, patience and wisdom for nearly three decades. The Museum At Warm Springs is very proud to be honoring these two outstanding individuals."

The museum Honor Dinner will be held at the Benson Hotel in Portland next Saturday, April 18. Former Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh will serve as master of ceremonies.

The Honor Dinner is sponsored each year by the Museum At Warm Springs Board of Directors and Board of Regents.

Serving on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Gordon Smith held annual

tribal summits with Oregon's federally recognized tribes. The following are some of his accomplishments for Native Americans during his tenure in the Senate:

He was joined by Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Greg Walden in working to rehabilitate Celilo Village;

He authored a new law that provided 99-year lease authority for trust assets and approval for the agreement enabling the Warm Springs tribes to seek a joint license of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project with Portland General Electric;

Smith expanded the federal anti-meth program to include funding for tribes;

He made tribes eligible for funding

for anti-suicide programs under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act;

He passed legislation transferring Chief's Island and Gregory Point to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians;

He passed a landmark amendment to the Indian Health Care Improvements Act, directing more Indian Health Service construction funds to Oregon.

Chief Delvis Heath

Chief Delvis Heath Sr. was raised on a cattle ranch by the late Chief Nathan Heath and Lillie McBride-Heath. His father Nathan served as the Chief of the Warm Springs tribes from 1954 to October 1969.

Along with his brothers and sisters, Chief Heath participated fully in a traditional family life, strong in the Washut religion, singing the songs for occasions and to open and end each day.

They enjoyed traveling to the mountains to gather traditional foods and took care of their cattle.

Chief Heath especially enjoyed breaking and training horses. He became the Warm Springs Chief soon after the passing of Chief Simtustus in 1982. He continued his passion for horses with the trail rides at the Kah-Nee-Ta Stables until he retired. Chief Heath is an Emeritus member of the Museum Board of Directors. He continues to serve his people with passion, patience and wisdom.