

WatchDOGS coming to school

By **Duran Bobb**
Spilyay Tymoo

They're known as WatchDOGS (Dads Of Great Students). And their goal is to reconnect dads with kids, provide an unobtrusive presence in schools, and to be positive and active role models for children.

Foster Kalama, Jefferson County Middle School liaison, and Andres "Andy" Palomo III recently got the go ahead from the 509-J school district to bring WatchDOGS to Jefferson County schools.

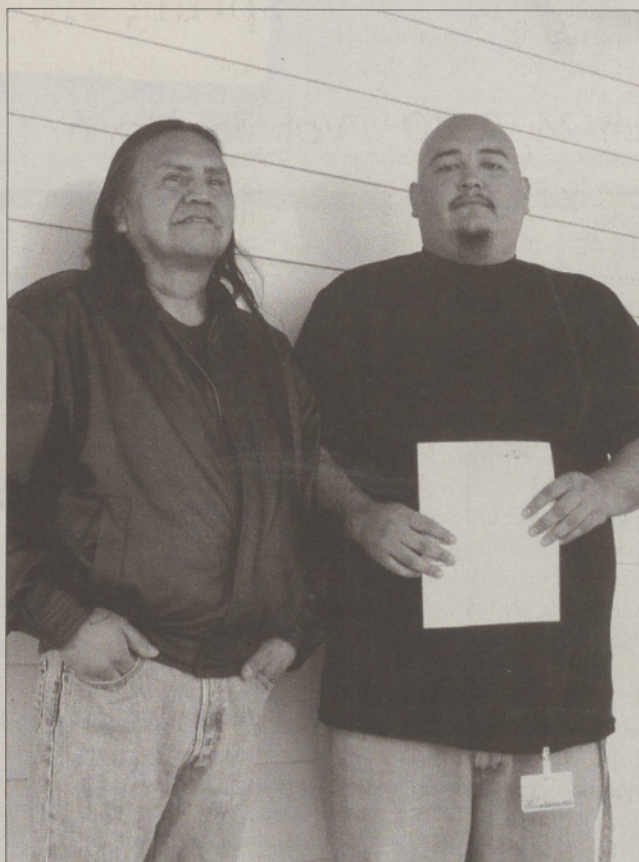
"The whole thing was started by Jim Moore after the Jonesboro Middle School shooting tragedy in Arkansas," Palomo said.

"Four students and a teacher were killed in that incident... so this is a positive way for fathers to step forward and do what they can to possibly help prevent this from happening again." During the Jonesboro Westside Middle School Massacre two students, Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Andrew Golden, 11, were shooting from nearby woods.

"With the WatchDOG program," Kalama said, "we're able to provide a sense of protection to our youth, while at the same time serving as positive male role models."

WatchDOG volunteers may read and work on flash cards with kids, play at recess, eat lunch with their child, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow, mentor students, and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own children, but other students as well.

"Just the presence of these volunteers can give the students



Duran Bobb/Spilyay

Foster Kalama (left) and Andres "Andy" Palomo III are bringing WatchDOGS to the district schools.

a better sense of security," Palomo said. "It also lets others know that we're serious about protecting our children."

Volunteers for the WatchDOG program would serve at least one day a year at an official WatchDOG school.

Volunteers are given a brief review of their involvement, and they wear an official WatchDOG t-shirt or vest with a "Dog Tag" that identifies them as program participants.

"This program has been recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health," Kalama said. "It's also been in-

volved in the Department of Education's Partnership for Family Involvement in Education."

Palomo is of Azteca lineage, and grew up in Salem. He has devoted his full attention to volunteering as a positive presence for children in local schools.

"I have success stories from my own experiences as a volunteer," Palomo said. "I've lived in this area now for five years, and I see this as a positive step forward for all of the different cultures that we have here."

"Today we have kids in school who might not feel safe," Kalama said. "And then we have

people out in the community who are 31 and are still out [in gangs], and that's pretty sad. This program gives young men a chance to become something more for the children. And you don't have to be a father to be a WatchDOG. If you're interested in making a difference in any child's life, that's what this program is for."

The WatchDOGS will have a meeting at the Jefferson County Middle School on Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to learn more. Pizza will be served.

For more information on WatchDOGS, go to:

www.fathers.com/watchdogs or call 888-540-DOGS.

A call to artists

The Festival of Nations is seeking poster art for the fall gathering at the Gorge.

The annual arts and culture celebration will be held in September at Cascade Locks, and is hosted by the *Two Communities, One Vision* group.

The festival organizers are centered on Native American traditions and arts, but submissions with any Gorge-inspired theme and appropriate images are also welcome.

The winner will receive recognition as a sponsor, a free vendor booth at the event for their art, and a portion of the poster proceeds.

The deadline for submissions is next Wednesday, March 31.

To enter, send a hard copy to:

Festival of Nations
P.O. Box 487, Corbett, Oregon 97019.

Or send an electronic image of a proposed design to:

rebbandy@comcast.net.

Please contact Rebecca Gandy, event coordinator, for more event details and poster requirements.

She can be reached at 503-753-4267. The local contacts are Margie Tuckta at Kah-Nee-Ta, 541-553-4883, or Evaline Patt at the Museum at Warm Springs. Museum, 541-553-3331.

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5 scholarships for camp

Tribal member students finishing sixth through twelfth grades are invited to the Natural Resources Camp in June.

The camp will be four days and three nights, Tuesday-Friday, June 15-18 in the Strawberry Mountains in Eastern Oregon.

Scholarships are available for five students. Cost without a scholarship is \$50.

The camp offers a chance for students to learn about careers in Natural Resources while having fun and meeting new friends too.

To apply for one of the scholarships, students should write a one-page report demonstrating their interest in going to the camp.

The report should answer these questions:

Why you would like to go to the camp?

What is your interest in the outdoors?

Also in the report include your name, age, grade and school of attendance. Submit final report by Monday, April 12 to: Lisa Hewlett-Dubisar

Natural Resources
P.O. Box C
Warm Springs, OR. 97761.

Final scholarship decisions made by April 26. If you have questions, please contact Hewlett-Dubisar at 541-553-2029

2010 Special Activities

Some of the camp activities include hiking and overnight camp near the Strawberry Wilderness. Also:

Learn about no trace camping with and without animals. How to construct emergency shelters, campfire building and cooking. Wilderness Etiquette and more. Limited to 20 campers

Trail Riding along the historic Logan Valley Railroad grade.

One-hour supervised ride on gentle, safe horses with knowledgeable instructors and guides. Limited to two rides of ten riders each.

Bats, other species

Build and hang a bat house to provide shelter for one of nature's most important species. Learn about bat life cycles and habitat.

Be introduced to other keystone species of Eastern Oregon and the importance of their interactions to create biodiversity. Limited to 12 campers.

Fly tying and fishing

Learn from one of the premier fly tying experts in the Northwest.

Make your own fly and then join the group and try it out on a fantastic brook trout stream. Limited to 12 campers.

GPS and Geo Cache

Learn to use a GPS and find a Geo Cache.

The camp is sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, U.S. Forest Service, OSU Extension 4-H, Oregon Department Of Fish and Wildlife, Paleo Adventures, Rare Earth Adventures, Bureau of Reclamation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Training and Employment Consortium, OYCC and Lake Creek Youth Camp.

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Vote on
March 31



Next deadline to submit
items to the Spilyay is
Friday, April 2. Thank you!