# On Heritage Night with Shoni and the Dream

#### by Patti Tanewasha Spilyay Tymoo

Shoni Schimmel had a dream to play in the WNBA and now plays for the Atlanta Dream. If there is one thing to remember, it's that it all started with a dream. Shoni's Dream.

Still early in her first WNBA season, here is how Shoni's dream is shaping up.

A Friday night, the final score was Atlanta Dream 80-Seattle Storm 69. Shoni had two points; four rebounds and one assist. After her first several WNBA games, Schimmel had the most assists in the league.

A Dream game in late May was the first in a series of Dream Heritage Fridays. The Atlanta Dream will be hosting heritage nights on Fridays throughout the season on their home court, celebrating diverse team members and fans.

May 30 was Native American Heritage night, and it was a success. Some 2,000 lucky fans received a turquoise "Schimmel #23" bracelet that was inspired by jewelry she wore during the 2014 WNBA draft.

Looking into the crowd you could see many Natives from around the region, and others that had traveled from around the country to watch the "Umatilla Thrilla" in action.

Over 100 tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from North Carolina were present. They had loaded up their own vehicles to drive all the way to Atlanta.

They had purchased tickets during a Cherokee Central Schools fundraiser.

During the half-time show,



Shoni at Native American Heritage Night (above); playing for the Dream (below).



the Red Road Dance Group and drum group Elk Soldier put on an amazing performance. The show was filled with honor songs and beauti-

fully presented various American Indian dance categories from the powwow circuit.

This was the second time they had all performed together, the last time was in early for Shoni Schimmel's senior night. That was the Louisville Cardinals Native American Heritage night, with 22,163 people present, and Native people from 40 states were present.

I had the opportunity to speak with Glenn Drapeau, a member of the Ihanktonwan Nokota (Yankton Sioux), from Lake Andes, South Dakota, one of the singers from the Elk Soldier Drum group. We spoke at an Atlanta Dream game last month:

How does it feel to perform for the second time for Shoni, but this time for her professional career?

Glenn: Shoni is our champion. She is a respected leader for our young people, and she has a beautiful way of representing our people. It's a beautiful thing to see that. Everybody loves her. She has a huge leadership role and accepted it, she has fulfilled that role and responsibility well. Shoni has proven you can take the girl from the rez, but you can't take the rez out of the girl.

After the game was over, I was able to catch up with Shoni.

I asked her, So what did you think of Native American Heritage Night?

Shoni: It's awesome, especially to see the Natives out here. Everybody is crazy about it, and loving it. I feel very special to have Native American Heritage Night.

What did you think about the "Shoni Schimmel" bracelets?

**Shoni:** It was surprising that they actually made them. They just came out, and my parents, plus everyone back home, are calling to ask, "Hey could you get us some Shoni bracelets?" It's a big hit, especially here tonight, because everybody here are the only ones to get them.

How was the transition from being one of the few female Native athletes at a college level to playing in the WNBA?

**Shoni:** It really hasn't hit me yet. I still feel like a college kid, and I'm still trying to adjust. It's not a bad thinghaving free time during the day and not worrying about school. Now it's like you get to relax it feels like, "Wow!"

You grew up playing, "rezball," and went onto playing college ball. Now you're playing in the WNBA. How has the competition changed?

Shoni: "These women are huge—tougher, faster, and smarter—regardless of who you play, everybody's going to come to play that night. There's no easy game. This year in the WNBA draft you were in the first round, and the number 8 pick for the Atlanta Dream. Were you hoping to go to Seattle?

**Shoni:** It would've been nice, just to be able to be at home. But at the same time this is an opportunity. Atlanta has been a great fit for me, and Coach Cooper knows what he's doing. I trust him. I'm happy I came here.

How did it feel to be one the first female Native American to be selected the first round of the WNBA draft?

**Shoni:** It's special. Like you said, not many have had that opportunity. Being one of the first is special.

What would be any advice you'd give to Native Youth today?

**Shoni:** Go out there and live your dreams! Regardless of what it may be— embrace it and don't let anything hold you back.

Shoni Schimmel, and along with the many other Native college athletes, are setting the bar for success. So far for Shoni the sky is the limit. She's showing many of our young people today that you can leave the rez, graduate from college, and become successful.

Shoni is proving to be a nice draw for teams with close proximity to American Indians. Once drafted by the Atlanta Dream for her rookie year, ticket sales for the away games in Phoenix and Seattle ticket sales are nearly sold out. Her "Schimmel 23" Dream jersey sold out. Many that attended the Dream game in Seattle were hoping to purchase her jersey, but it wasn't in stock.

# Scoping comments for Log

# Boxing, endurance horse race, softball

The Pi-Ume-Sha Endurance Horse Race is on Saturday. For information call Ricky Graybael, 541-977-5595. The Endurance Race starts at 8

a.m. at the Shaker Church. **Pi-Ume-Sha Boxing** is Saturday at the Community Center This will be a Pro-Am event *(see page 12).* The Fry Bread Golf tour-

ney is Saturday. Call the pro formation, 541-553-3243. shop at 541-553-4971. The Men and Women

The Fun Run starts at the Community Center on Saturday morning. at 8. Meet at the Community Center. For inThe Men and Women Softball Tournaments are all weekend. Call Sandra Greene or Jerry, 541-553-6619.

## Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo to let 'er buck this weekend

The Forty-Fifth Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days All Indian Rodeo is this Saturday and Sunday, June 28-29. The rodeo beings each day with the grand entry at 1 p.m., at

the Warm Springs Rodeo grounds.

Admission is \$5—children 6 and under free. Events include bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel race, breakaway roping, senior team roping, senior breakaway, junior barrel race, junior steer riding, junior breakaway, wild horse race, junior wild colt race, senior wild colt race. The rodeo is sponsored by the Warm Springs Rodeo Association. For rodeo information call Cheryl at 541-325-9087.

#### Springs restoration project

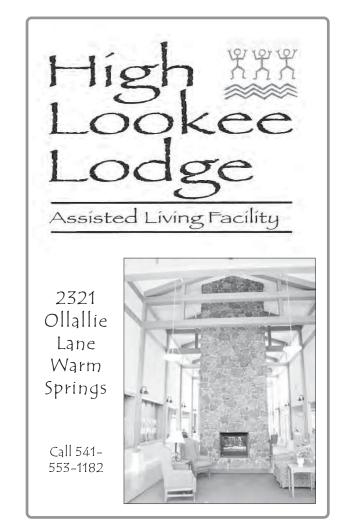
The Log Springs Restoration Planning Team is seeking comments on a restoration project for the Log Springs area.

The project will address concerns in the Coyote Creek subwatershed, and fish habitat issues relating to the Beaver Creek Spill Settlement.

The resulting projects will go through the IRMP

process. If you would like to comment, please visit the Branch of Natural Resources front desk. Or contact one of the team members: Suzi Miller, Range; Andrea Karoglanian, wildlife; Scott Turo, fisheries; Jon Treasure or Scott Havill, water and soil.

You can reach Natural Resources at 541-553-2001.



## Tribes update Columbia Basin Restoration Plan

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and its member tribes have completed the first update to their comprehensive fisheries restoration plan.

CRITFC and its member tribes—Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce—have updated the *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*, or Spirit of the Salmon Plan.

The update addresses issues and opportunities that have arisen since the original plan was written almost 20 years ago. The update describes the progress and needed modifications to the institutional and technical recommendations in the original plan.

It also identifies and addresses several new challenges and recommendations 18 years into the 25-year plan. Issues such as climate change, unmanaged predation and water quality are a few of the new issues addressed in the updated plan.

"With this update, Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit is once again the most comprehensive and holistic fish restoration plan in the Columbia Basin," said Paul Lumley, CRITC executive director.

"This updated plan reflects the Columbia's changing landscape and the new challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves over the past 20 years. Those challenges can no longer be ignored."

The Spirit of the Salmon Plan was originally developed

in 1995 to provide a framework for restoring anadromous fish such as salmon and lamprey as well as sturgeon in upriver areas above Bonneville Dam. The plan takes a gravel-to-gravel management approach that corresponds to the migratory range of these fish and extends throughout the Columbia River Basin wherever activities occur that directly affect them.

The updated Spirit of the Salmon Plan is available on online at plan.critfc.org. The online plan is fully searchable and includes the complete 2014 supplement, the original 1995 plan, the 2004 subbasin management plans as well as hundreds of links to related materials.

