

Weaver featured at national museum

Pat Courtney Gold was invited to the Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian for the Women's History Month.

The museum, in Washington, D.C., featured Native women artists who received the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship Award.

Courtney Gold participated in the Program, *Creativity and Continuity*, March 7-8, sharing the Wasco Nation weavings, and heritage with the public.

Courtney Gold and her sister Pinky Beymer traveled to Washington, D.C., on March 6, arriving just after the big snow storm that closed down all offices.

They spent the weekend walking in 6 inches of snow. After Pat's work in the museum, they toured the Space Museum, and the American History Museum, enjoying a snowy winter walk in the Mall.

"An evening walk in the Mall, with the snow and Capitol Building and full moon, was an unforgettable experience," Pat says.

She has her work exhibited and collected by many museums, including the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society, the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, and the British Museum in London.

Courtney Gold tours the nation, doing research and giving lectures to museum curators about her basket weav-



Pat Courtney Gold with woven wall hangings.

Courtesy photo.

ing.

She was an invited artist at the Maori Culture Center in New Zealand, and has also studied at the Museum of World Culture in Frankfurt, Germany.

She received the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Award in 2007 and an Oregon Arts Award in 2001.

When the Warm Springs and Wasco tribes were forcefully removed from the Columbia River area in the 1850s, the art form of weaving baskets was nearly lost.

Courtney Gold and her sis-

ter Bernyce Courtney worked with elders to help revive the art form.

One of the reasons Courtney Gold travels and gives talks is because she thought she would never see Wasco baskets outside of museums. "I want to share my knowledge so this art form never dies out," Courtney Gold said.

Pat earlier this week presented *Columbia River Native Women* at the St. Helens Library, "Library After Hours" series of programs for adults.

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