



Spilyay Tymoo

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A welcome return to Pi-Ume-Sha

This year the full Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days—Friday through Sunday, June 23-25—is again possible. “This will be great because we’ve all been waiting for something more to do here in the community,” said Robinson ‘Gorky’ Mitchell, Chair of the 2023 Pi-Ume-Sha Committee.

As the community knows, the tribes had to cancel the powwow in 2020 and 2021, because of the health risks. Then last June, as the pandemic was fading, we saw just the Traditional Dress Parade, and a small community gathering at the powwow grounds, both welcome returns to a more normal summer. And now finally we have the full pageantry, excitement, outdoor competition and fun of the full tradition.

“After the pandemic, with everything shut down, this will bring back some happiness to the community,” said Cyrille Mitchell, powwow committee member, and director of Children’s Protective Services. “As Native people, we’ve always relied on gatherings.”

During covid, when even funeral services were restricted, “We saw more depression,” Ms. Mitchell was saying.

“Now we have hope again that

we can go on. We can go back to our traditions and celebrations.”

The pandemic took a toll on the community, with several elders passing away from the virus. In all among the local community, 37 people died from covid, elders as well as younger people. In recognition, the theme of the 2023 Pi-Ume-Sha Traditional Dress Parade is *Honoring Those Who Walked Before Us*.

“This is to remember all those who passed away during covid,” Cyrille says. “And to show we’re still here, carrying on our traditions, celebrating and honoring the treaty.”

The events

As mentioned, community gatherings are a large part of Native life, and starting in the spring of 2020 this was greatly restricted. As a result, and as Cyrille points out, the incidence of depression increased.

Recognizing this, the Pi-Ume-Sha week begins Wednesday, June 21 with the Community Health Fair, the theme this year being Mental Health Warriors.

The Health Fair will be outside of the Community Wellness Center, featuring an afternoon barbecue, raffles, the information booths, t-

shirts and many other healthy incentives.

The powwow begins Friday evening, June 23 with the opening Grand Entry. And from there the powwow traditions continue through the weekend:

The Saturday Traditional Dress Parade, and the Grand Entries honoring all veterans; dance competitions, Specials, drums and socials. And also during the weekend: the Treaty Days Rodeo, Stick Game Tournament, the Softball and Baseball Memorial Tournament, the Endurance Horse Race, vendors, tributes and more. Powwow Specials this year include:

The Wilbur Johnson Men’s Traditional. Melissa Johnson Iron Woman Fancy. Scott Family Special. Three Man Hand Drum. Queen’s Special. Team Dance, and Round Bustle.

Pi-Ume-Sha weekend will feature the Wild Horse Race Buck Smith Memorial, the Knockout Wildfire Basketball Tournament, and the Sunday Superman and Wonder Woman Challenge. All of this is to remember the Treaty of 1855 that—more than eight generations later—still guides the direction and organization of the Confederated Tribes.

54TH Annual Individual & Team Dance Competition



“168 years” June 25, 1855 Treaty



SPECIALS BEING HOSTED:
Wilbur Johnson Men’s Traditional 1st place \$1,000 (5 places), Melissa Johnson Iron Woman fancy \$1,000 winner take all, Scott Family Special, 3 Man Hand Drum, Queen’s Special, Honoring Cyrille Mitchell
Graduating from University of Wyoming, Team Dance, Round Bustle

POW-WOW INFORMATION:
Robinson Mitchell (Chair); 541-325-2968, Vending- Sharon Katchia- 541-295-6046 & Louise Katchia 541-460-0224

Other Pi-Ume-Sha Activities:	
Traditional Dress Parade;	Romana Greene Baez- 541-460-0077
Stick Game Tournament;	Vanessa Knight-Crane- 541-460-0105
Rodeo;	Alfredine Florendo- 541-460-3257
Softball/Baseball Memorial Tournament;	Stacey Leonard- 541-460-0882

The Treaty

By chance the final day of Pi-Ume-Sha 2023 lands on the anniversary date of the signing of the Treaty of 1855, on June 25. This year is the One-Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Tribes of Middle Oregon and the United States government.

Over the course of the three-day meeting in 1855—concluding at the Treaty Oak on June 25—tribal leaders agreed to relinquish legal title claim 10 million acres of land, now called the Ceded Lands. Importantly, the tribes specifically maintained the right of traditional use—fishing, hunting, root digging, berry harvesting, etc.—across the Ceded Lands. These rights have existed since time immemorial, and are still

exercised today to the extent possible.

At the same time, the tribes reserved the land between Mt. Jefferson and the Deschutes River—1,019 square miles, or 644,000 acres—for the exclusive use of the sovereign tribes of the Confederation.

On June 25, 1855, one hundred and fifty Indian leaders signed the Treaty, and within a few years the Wasco and Warm Springs people relocated to Central Oregon. The Wascos settled primarily in the Agency area and the Warm Springs in the Simnasho area. Leaving the Columbia River, the place of culture and spiritual ties for thousands of years, was among the most difficult times in the known history of the people.

PI-UME-Sha continues on 2

Car show at casino

Indian Head Casino will present the Seventh Annual Car Show this Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All ages are welcome. There will be a DJ, raffle prizes, and a covered food court, plus all of the classic cars and trucks.

For anyone showing a vehicle, there is a \$20 pre-registration, and \$25 day-of registration. This includes \$20 bonus slot play. The Best in Show prize is \$500. All proceeds from the Car Show go to the Boys & Girls Club. With the casino, the show is sponsored in part by the Route 26 Cruisers of Sandy.

June Fishery

A zone 6 commercial gillnet fishery is planned to start at 6 a.m. on Monday, June 19 and run through 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21; and a second fishery is from June 26 through June 28. The four Columbia River treaty tribes agreed on a plan, having taken a cautious approach to the initial summer fishery season to address uncertainties in run sizes and catch rates.

The June 19-21 fishery will allow set and drift nets with a 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Allowed sales are salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp. They may be sold or retained for subsistence purposes.

Paddle to Muckleshoot in July

The N’Chi Wanapum Canoe Family of the Confederated Tribes is getting ready for the Paddle to Muckleshoot journey coming up in mid July. The journey to the landing site—at Muckleshoot, Washington on Puget Sound—will be in mid and late July with celebrations to follow.

Earlier this month, the N’Chi Wanapum Family were in training, paddling from Pelton Park to Indian Park during the two-day practice session. The family is still looking for more team members to help with the 2023 journey, and any donations also greatly appreciated.

You can reach out to Jefferson Greene, Canoe Family coordinator, or Misty Greene. Both Jefferson and Misty work for the Columbia River Institute for Indigenous Development Foundation. Their emails are: jefferson@criid.org



misty@criid.org

Or you can reach Jefferson by phone at 541-460-3004; or Misty at 541-306-9994.

The Canoe Landing this year is hosted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Tribal Canoe Journeys, founded in 1989, celebrates the Native canoe tradition of the Northwest Coast.

The events bring together tribes from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska.

The Canoe Journeys have helped to revive the canoe tradition of tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. For a couple of years the tradition had to be postponed because of the pandemic, and is now back and bigger than ever. The Canoe Families travel by waterways to the destination, accompanied by family and friends who drive and help with the logistics.



Bonita Leonard and BraveBear during recent canoe outing (above); and the N’chi Wanapum Canoe Family and Portland All Nations at Indian Park (below).

Misty L. Greene photos



Where Winners Play!

PI-UME-SHA CELEBRATION



Win up to \$1,000 CASH!

Saturday, June 24th

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

SAME DAY ENTRIES. See Players’ Club for details & times.

