

OSU-Cascades First Peoples Celebration



Tribal entry at the OSU-Cascades event, this year held inside because of the weather.

Oregon State University-Cascades celebrated its Third Annual First Peoples Day over the weekend, at the OSU Bend campus with an afternoon of Native art, dancing, and traditional food.

The event brought together artists from the Tananawit artists community, and other tribal and cultural organizations of the Confederated Tribes.

Visitors explored traditional crafts, watched a traditional regalia and dance showcase, and joined in a community

round dance led by the Black Lodge Singers, the Grammy-nominated drum group. Traditional Native food was available from Twisted Teepee of Warm Springs.

Chance White Eyes is OSU’s director of tribal relations. “Growing up, I watched the tone of this day slowly transform,” he said.

“It’s refreshing to see family and community come together—to celebrate, eat, share songs, and exchange our perspectives and experiences.”

Christine Pollard, senior associate dean at OSU-Cascades,

highlighted the university’s relationship with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

“We’re a land grant institution, and we’ve been building these relationships for years,” Ms. Pollard said. “And we’re excited to keep learning from them.”

The First Peoples Celebration reflects OSU-Cascades’ ongoing commitment to honoring its partnership with the tribes and recognizing the First Peoples of Central Oregon.

Legacy: Honoring three elders of Warm Springs

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“I always felt that sharing our stories from the heart is the truth, because you can always change your mind. That’s the way I was taught,” Ms. Meanus said.

In 2023, Linda published a book she had written with her grandparents in mind. Her book, *My name is Lamoosh*, chronicles her life as she grew up with her grandmother, Flora Thompson and her grandfather Chief Tommy Thompson, a former Salmon Chief of the Celilo Wyam people. In the story, Meanus talks about her life before the creation of the Dalles Dam which flooded her ancestral home of Celilo Falls and highlights Indigenous ways of the Columbia River People.

“I always wanted to share my story about a historic place, and a loss that should have never happened,” she said. “They took away a beautiful history but our light, it still lives on.”

A powwow dancer and beadworker, Linda is an example of a woman who loves her culture. In every facet of her life, she focuses on remembering her ancestors and living to teach the youth about who they are.

“Our history of stories, our



Sam Robinson, Chinook Nation vice-chair, and his wife Mildred offer a song during the Legacy Maker gathering.

legacy and our way of life, should have never been taken away, but we still continue carrying on our culture,” Linda said. “We still teach our younger generation that it’s always important to carry out our way of life before it’s all gone.”

Elizabeth Woody is Oregon’s first Native American poet laureate. As a wordsmith, Ms. Woody explores her identity as an Indigenous woman and the beauty and darkness the identity holds in her work. In 1990 she received the American Book Award and the William Stafford Memorial Award for Poetry, and

was a finalist for the Oregon Book Awards in 1995.

Elizabeth gives back to her community by leading workshops and lectures, and as a founding board member of Soapstone, a literary organization based in Portland, focusing on uplifting women writers who face obstacles in finding space and time for serious writing by giving them opportunities to do so.

Lillian Pitt first began dabbling in art in 1981. At the time she had no idea where it would take her. While she pursued her Associates of Arts degree in Mental Health and Human Services, Lillian took a ceramics class that led her lifelong pursuit of art.

Now, over 40 years later she has become known for her work, rooted in iconography and petroglyphs from her ancestors. The inspiring Native American petroglyphs are found throughout the Columbia River Gorge. Lillian’s most notable works include 26 bronze plaques at the Oregon Convention Center; a 50-foot sculpture in Portland State University’s Native American Student and Community Center; and famously the Welcome Gate of the Vancouver Land Bridge. Examples of her work often highlight the large projects, though Lillian also creates fine jewelry.

“What inspired me is the love of my ancestry, the love of my people and the love of my artwork speaking for me,” Lillian said.

Last month, over 150 community members gathered at the Pearson Air Museum Hangar in Vancouver, Washington for the annual Confluence Legacy Maker Gathering, this year honoring the three elders of the Warm Springs tribes.



First W.S. Academy awards assemblies of the 2025-26 school year

The first of the 2025-26 monthly award assemblies at the Warm Springs Academy saw many of the students honored for outstanding achievements. The Academy recognized the September Students of the Month, and Students with Great Attendance.

The character trait for September was ‘Respectful,’ and the Academy recognized many students who demonstrated this trait.



September Students of the Month, kindergarten through fifth grades:

Robert Tias. Beth Johnson. Kiara Tall Bull. Daniel Scott. Francine Stiffarm.

Damarion Lomas. Lynette Hicks. John Slockish. Anubis Nelson. Cambria Thompson.

WinterBelle Mitchell. Jonas Spino. Kasen David. Cyrus Cleveland. Leland Smith. William Smith.

Osius Smith. Shaylynn Brisbois. Martina Heath. Raymond Suppah. Addilyn Suppah.

Darius Wason. Anaya Pacheco. Karma Brunoe. Reyes Robles. Alvinah Polk.

TyDell Ball. Merrah Lawson. Albin Greene. Wylena Belgard. Carlie Caldera.

Rylan Mitchell. Reyden Medina. Marianna Machic Holliday. Moses Kalama. Harvey Medrana.

Adam Rodriguez Longknife. Cayson Smith. Asher Stwyer.

September Students of the Month, grades 6 through 8:

Syriana VanPelt. Jacob Adams. Jasika Brunoe. Benjamin Jack. Nathaniel Wallulatum Heath.

Hannah Williams. Jessamyn Sampson. Seanlee Harrington. Coraline White. Victor Switzler.

Leo Dimmick. Taylynn Tanewasha. Ariany Eriza. Rylen Spackman. Keeven Adams.

Zane Smith. Myleah Baza Winishut. Karma Graybael. Ariat Coffee. Montay Frank.

September Character Trait ‘Respectful’ Students, kindergarten through fifth grades:

Lenaya Tohet. Aaron Scott Jr. Amirallis Holliday. Braxton Hurtado. HollyAnna Spino.

Vance Brisbois. Adam Rodriguez Longknife. Moses Kalama. Gabrielle Sohapp.

Marianna Machic Holliday. Albin Greene. Syncere Robles. Dennis Thompson. Laure Yachtin-Hicks.

Amaya George. Loyal Wahnetah. Vaiya Wabaunsee. Archie Wapsheli IV. Akira Johnson. Verna Alonso.

Cyrus Cleveland. Donovan Jim Picard. Mahkeena VanPelt. Jesse Wallulatum. Amira Spino. DeShaun Palmer.

Anthony Tias. Mary Sam-Smith. Keith Smith. Leona Norwest. Isabella Caldera. Ajay Lopez.

Ali Bastian. Amber Selam VanPelt. Shanice Simtustus. Kennedy Stewart. Chace Begay. Amara Nelson.

September Character Trait ‘Respectful’ Students, grades 6 through 8:

Eddy Jones. Syriana VanPelt. Nathaniel Wallulatum Heath. Saliyah Culps. Suella Simtustus.

Jacob Jack. Terrance Wahchumwah. Logan Wason. Samuel Picard.

Trevyn Hatathli. Percy Rubenstahl. Alvinah Polk. Rylan Mitchell. Sofia Saludo.

Gracelynn Howard. Samuel Picard. Payton Greene.

Perfect Attendance for September, kindergarten through second grades:

Elias Culps. Leah Danzuka. Merris Graybael. Ayden Hatathli.

Suraya Hicks. Amirallis Holliday. Tizohn Holliday. Braxton Hurtado. Cambree Mize. Kataleya Satanus. Kasen David. Jaxon Evans. Hendrixx Hatathli. LaRae Holliday. Leonardo Kalama. Loki Kentle. Athena Medina-Kurtz.

Syncere Robles. Aurora Smith. Leland Smith. Xavien Smith. Yona Smith. HollyAnna Spino.

Aidric Suppah. Dennis Thompson. Jaque Wahchumwah. Evelyn Wolfe. Alessandro Antunez.

Cyrus Cleveland. Levi Eriza. Amaya George. Lozen Graybael. Lynette Hicks. Xzavious Holliday.

Julie Jim. Saddle Medrano. Tom Medrano. Sofia Saludo. Aliyah Smith.

Jennius Smith. Sherri Smith-Givens. Lexi Thomas. Joshua Winishut-McKinley.

Perfect Attendance for September, grades 3 through 5:

Laritta Culps. Vincent David. Sage Edwards. Donovan Jim Picard. Gerardo Medrano.

Harvey Medrano. DeShawn Palmer. Meilani Sam Smith. Laralee Squiemphen. Addilyn Suppah. Raymond Suppah.

Makani Thomas. Angela Tias. Valance Tohet. Dominic Wolfe. JayLeo Yahtin Cloud. Tydell Ball. Rowena Begay. Isabella Caldera. Denise Frank. Ameriesa Hicks. Jordan James.

Moses Kalama. Eriha Orozco Cuevas. Anaya Pacheco. Eli Padilla. Alvinah Polk. Reyes Robles.

Lucille Sam. Kameryn Smith Lucero. Cayson Smith. Leounce Smith. Norman Spino. Quaid Switzler.

Rubyanna Tohet. Tryston Williams. Wylena Belgard. Baylei Brunoe. Carlie Caldera. Natasha Caldera.

Kyree Graybael Senator. Roy Heath. Chris Jim Picard. Maddison Jim. Ziriako Kollen. Imoni Northrup.

Gabrielle Sohapp. Ronald Spino Jack. Duke Spino. Alora Stwyer Hoptowit. Daniel Tewee.

Perfect Attendance for September, grades 6 through 8.

Keevin Adams Jr. Vassago Clements. Lester Culps. Takoda Hatathli. Roma Knight.

Raysin Miller. Louis Smith. Allorah Squiemphen. Keo Wahnetah. Aaliyah Weaselhead. Ravyn Brunoe.

Easton Charley. Saliyah Culps. Nainoa Esquiro. Adonai Frank. Robyn Givens. Noah Govenor.

Aubrie Gregg. Trevyn Hatathli. Gabriel Hoptowit. Jaida Lane. Sequoia Lucci Boise. Eliandra Nez.

Braylon Pennington. Orion Sam. Jenny Scott. DeeJay Spearchief. Noah Spino. Colton Steen.

Victor Switzler III. Jadin Tufti. Terrance Wahchumwah. Karie Wahnetah. Maliyah Archer. Calvin Charley Jr.

Leo Dimmick. Seanlee Harrington. Jason Jim. Aidan Jones. Quintis Martinez. Quintin Ohte. Taralynn Padilla.

Samuel Picard. Roscoe Smith. Rylen Spackman. Aiyana Suppah. Taylynn Tanewasha. Lundy Tewee.

Klai Thompson. Charelle Wainanwit. Coraline White. JayDen Winishut McKinley.