

## PSU's Native American Center Heading for September Completion

■ Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Spirit Mountain Community Fund contributed \$250,000.



By Ron Karten

At a cost of nearly \$4 million, plus another \$300,000 for Native artwork, Portland State University's (PSU) Native American Student and Community Center is almost ready for prime time.

With space for gatherings as large as 300, the facility also will offer space for classes and offices, a library/resource room fitted with distance-learning technology, a gallery/lounge with exhibit space for Northwest Native art and displays, a rooftop garden and courtyard where new graduates will inscribe their names, an outdoor salmon bake area and meeting and conference rooms.

Funded by private donors including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR), state bonds, federal money and student building fees, the facility will be unique in this metropolitan area that is home to some 14,000 Indians.

Three hundred thousand federal dollars come courtesy of Capitol Hill testimony in support of the project by former Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, according to Erin Malecha, spokeswoman for the university. Furse also is Director of PSU's Institute for Tribal Government.

An inlay of the CTGR logo will grace the floor inside the west entry off the park blocks. Art installations commissioned by such outstanding Indian artists as Warm Springs mixed media sculptor Lillian Pitt, Klamath bronze sculptor Jim Jackson, Inupiaq sculptor

Lawrence R. Ahvakana and Tlingit glass artist and sculptor Preston Singletary also will be represented in the building.

"The completion of PSU's Native American Student and Community Center marks an important milestone in the university's history and in our ability to serve Native students and the larger community," said PSU President Daniel O. Bernstine.

The population of Indian students at PSU has more than doubled in the last decade. The university offers a number of educational programs and courses with Native curriculum, including the Institute for Tribal

Government, and is creating a new undergraduate Native American Studies Certificate program to offer interdisciplinary studies to Native and non-Native students.

"This is welcome recognition of the growing importance and influence of Native Americans in the Northwest. PSU's Native American Student and Community Center will play an important part as we continue to re-acquaint ourselves with our culture and ancient traditions and develop new avenues for passing them on to future generations," said Angie Blackwell, Director of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

The Center is located on SW Jackson between SW Broadway and SW Park in downtown Portland. With grand opening ceremonies scheduled for October 24 this year, the building is nevertheless expected to be ready for the opening of classes for the 2003-2004 school year.



Photo by Peta Tinda

PSU President  
Daniel O. Bernstine

## Addiction Services Approved For Continued Services

■ Tribal Health & Wellness Clinic's Dr. Joe Stone, Joe Cook and Laura Burton improve their credentials.

By Ron Karten

The Tribal Health & Wellness Clinic's Behavioral Health section received the go-ahead from the state for another year of service. The Letter of Approval for the Tribes' Outpatient Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program continued the existing certification from May 31, 2003 to May 31, 2004.

Coincidentally, the certification update comes at the same time as three other professional successes for the Behavioral Health section.

Behavioral Health Director, Joseph Stone, Ph.D., Behavioral

Health Director, was awarded Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor Level III at the Masters level.

Joseph R. Cook, Jr. MS, LPC, Mental Health Therapist, has completed requirements to become a Licensed Professional Counselor in Oregon. This marks completion of 2,500-hour professional internship. Cook also has been accepted as a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at George Fox University.

And Laura Burton, CADCI, Chemical Dependency Counselor, was awarded Certified Alcohol &

Drug Counselor Level II. In addition, she earned certification as a Clinical Supervisor in the Alcohol & Drug program.

All certifications were awarded by the State of Oregon.

The certification process is required for all programs in the state either every year or every two years, depending on the program, said Dr. Stone.

"Professionals come out from the state," said Dr. Stone. "They look at client charts. They look through our policies and procedures. And

they interview the staff. They ask about our backgrounds, training, whether we're remaining current, how the program's going. They ask about upsides and downsides (of the program) and they look for perceptions from the staff. They also sometimes interview clients although they didn't do that this time."

What does it all mean?

"What it means," said Dr. Stone, "is an increased level of competence in the program."

## West Nile Expected To Make An Appearance In Oregon This Year

■ Although it is not here yet, the time to learn is now.

By Ron Karten

Diseases carried by mosquitos include Malaria, Yellow Fever, Encephalitis and Dengue Fever. Not a friendly bunch. West Nile Virus (WNV), expected to reach Oregon for the first time this year, comes with encephalitis-bearing mosquitos.

"Nothing's happened yet in this year," said Shirley Walkhoff, the Tribe's Community Health Nurse. But we'll probably have some warning when the disease does arrive, she said, because animals generally are infected first. For some domestic animals, like horses, immunizations are available, said Walkhoff, although there are neither immunizations nor treatments for the disease in humans.

As of July 24, 35 states had reported the appearance of WNV to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in birds, horses or mosquitos. Seven states had reported a total of 11 human cases, five in

Texas alone. Last year, according to CDC, there were nearly 4,156 reported human cases in 44 states resulting in 284 deaths.

The community should be aware of the dangers, but 80 to 90 percent of WNV cases "result in no illness or only mild symptoms," according to Grant Higginson, M.D., Oregon's Public Health Officer. "In 10 percent to 20 percent of cases, the symptoms are a flu-like illness with abrupt onset of symptoms such as fever, headache, sore throat, backache and muscle aches. In one case out of 150, the result is meningitis or encephalitis (either of which can be fatal). The incubation period is five to 15 days."

High risk groups include those over 50 and those suffering with paralysis or compromised immune system. On the other hand, accord-

ing to the CDC, all those who contract the disease, whether symptoms are severe or slight, are currently thought to be immune from

*Less than one percent of people bitten by mosquitos develop any symptoms.*

a recurrence.

Last year, according to a recent Associated Press report, "about 13 people caught West Nile virus from donated blood...." It also has been transmitted during an organ transplant. Two new tests are now being attempted on blood donations to "enhance blood safety," according to the report.

The disease also has been transmitted through breast feeding and even during pregnancy from mother to fetus. It cannot be transmitted person-to-person through casual contact such as touching or kissing, said the CDC.

Less than one percent of people bitten by mosquitos develop any symptoms. Relatively few mosquitos actually carry the disease.

Preventative specialists continue to advise individuals to wear long sleeve clothes in the dusk to dawn hours when mosquitoes feed, and to wear repellent where clothes don't reach. Home and property owners are advised to empty all vessels where water collects and stands, drill holes in tire swings to allow the water to drain, and to change water in places like bird baths every few days to interrupt the 5-day incubation cycle of the mosquito larvae.

WNV was first discovered in Uganda in 1937. It is thought to have spread to the eastern U.S. four years ago. At this writing, Oregon remains one of only four states that have avoided any reported instances of the disease.