

# Library Took Off In 2006

■ Donations, visits, borrowings all way up.

By Ron Karten

Shelving for 1,000 new books is going to have to wedge its way between existing shelving to make room for many of the 1,600 new donations given to the Tribal Library last year. The shelving is on order and may already have arrived by the time this issue goes to press.

Most donations will join the library's 6,000 existing items, including books, tapes, CDs, videos, electronic games, magazines and other wild and sundry educational and recreational fare.

Some, that are duplicates, will go to assisted living centers as well as Tribal satellite offices; and those outdated or too tattered to keep, will be given away.

In addition to donations, the library has budgeted \$3,000 for new purchases — "mainly children and young adult books," said Tribal member and Madam Librarian Marion Mercier.

"We concentrate on those age groups," said Mercier, "because



they're the ones coming in regularly for seasonal and other special events."

Three classrooms of Early Childhood education students come in for a reading period once a week and the K-5 group also comes in regularly every week.

In addition to Tribal funds, the library has secured grants that altogether will translate into about 200 new books and other items this year.

By request, the library is going to concentrate on Oregon Tribal authors this year, said Mercier. "One of the

best things about the library is we listen to what the patrons want," she added.

That helps explain the 6,880 visits to the library last year, and the 7,900 circulations. That and the wonderful policy of not charging overdue fines. "We want to encourage people to come," said Mercier.

Early this year, said Mercier, things will take another leap forward as Tribal Council approves new library policy.

Also this year, the library and Smoke Signals are encouraging those who visit the library to write book, movie and game reviews for publication. Leave reviews at the library or send them straight to *Smoke Signals*.

On the currently recommended list is Bernie Whitebear, An Urban Indian's Quest for Justice, a book about this Sin-Aikst Tribal member who was long a leading voice for Indian rights.

The Sin-Aikst people live along the Columbia River near the Canadian border and north into British Columbia. Whitebear worked with the Quinault and Colville Tribes and founded the Daybreak Star Center in Seattle. It was his voice, said Mercier, that encouraged celebrities like Jane Fonda and Marlon Brando to get involved with Indian issues. ■

## Where are they now: A Glimpse At The Success Of The 2001-2002 Hatfield Fellow

By Angie Sears, Tribal Mentee

Bodie Shaw, 2001-2002 Hatfield Fellow, has taken full advantage of his experience working with Congressional staff on Capitol Hill.

Shaw, a member of the Warm Springs Tribe, is the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) branch of Wildlife Fire Management. His primary duties include the administration of Federal Fire Policy Legislation, as well as overseeing a budget of approximately \$200 million for a number of Tribes receiving services from the BIA.

Currently, Shaw is on assignment working with the Australian Embassy and United States State Department as a liaison to the Australian Government. He credits this opportunity to the political ties formed during his Fellowship.

"Australia is experiencing extreme wildfires, and internally they don't have the resources necessary to contain a lot of these fires. So, within an international agreement, which is how we got assistance from Australian forces during our wildfire season, the Australian Government is requesting assistance from Canada, Mexico, and the United States," said Shaw. "Part of my liaison function will be working with the Canadian and Mexican Governments in a facilitative role as we begin to send firefighting troops to assist in January."

"We have a very capable firefighting force in the United States," he said. "Internationally they are viewed as some of the top firefighters in the world."

Shaw, 41, served his Fellowship in Congressman Earl Blumenauer's Office, Democrat for the Third District of Oregon. He holds an Associate of Science degree in Forest Technology from Central Oregon Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Oregon State University,



Warm Springs Tribal member Bodie Shaw

and a Masters of Science degree in Natural Resources Education from Oregon State University.

He worked for the Warm Springs Tribe as a Forest Manager, as well as the Federal Government Forest Service and Indian Affairs, when he decided to enter into the Fellowship program to gain knowledge of the legislative policy framework from a congressional standpoint.

On his first day in Blumenauer's office, Shaw took on the responsibilities of a "staffer."

The Chief of Staff was getting ready to leave on maternity leave and handed him the transportation portfolio as part of his first duties.

"At that time we were undergoing a reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century, which was a multi-million dollar national Transportation Bill," said Shaw. "So I kind of hit the ground running."

After introducing the Transportation Bill, Shaw continued working with transportation, but was also introduced to Indian Affairs and Natural Resource Policies. This was more in his field and created a

good balance for him.

The most important experience within the Fellowship for Shaw was learning the appropriations cycle and seeing the impact it has on Tribes, as well as the impact on the executive branch of the Federal Government. Knowing first-hand how Congress thinks, and works an Appropriations Bill through the various legislative gyrations has been very beneficial in his current position with the BIA.

Shaw feels that the Hatfield Fellowship is a great success that provides an unlimited number of opportunities for Native Americans.

"If I could do it again... I'd do it in a heart beat," said Shaw. "The Fellowship works well not only for the individual, but for Indian Country in general. It brings knowledge and political background back to the Tribes. It's priceless."

Shaw attributes a large part of his success to the great reception, and amount of attention he received from Congressman Blumenauer and his staff.

"The first day the Congressman took me under his wing and continued through the duration of my assignment. The staff was also beyond comparison. Some of my closest friendships are with a number of folks on the Congressman's staff," he said.

Shaw had the opportunity to talk with other individuals serving in different Fellowships during the time of his assignment in Blumenauer's office and learned that his experience truly was one-of-a-kind.

"I had daily one-on-one opportunities with the Congressman, as his schedule would permit. Some folks were lucky to have a face-to-face once a week, and sometimes once a month with their assignments," said Shaw.

"Congressman Blumenauer took what I had to say very seriously, and we were able to implement a number of legislative strategies. I can't

say enough about the Congressman, the working environment, and the staff. Not many people have an opportunity like that in a Congressional office," he said.

"The Hatfield Fellowship program has provided wonderful opportunities for professionals and has proven an important asset for Congressional offices. Bodie Shaw was an invaluable resource on environmental, forestry, and tribal issues, and continues to be today as a Deputy Chief with the Department of Interior," said Congressman Blumenauer.

After completion of the Fellowship program, Shaw was given an opportunity to stay on permanent staff with the Congressman, but after extensive thought he declined the opportunity. The BIA had offered him the best of both worlds. His current position would give him the opportunity to continue to work with Congressional Affairs, but also to work within Forestry and Fire Management. He maintains contacts with Congressional staff and continues to utilize his experiences within the Fellowship to his advantage, and to the success of his career.

Shaw gave a tremendous amount of thanks to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for giving him, and other young Native Americans the opportunity to gain valuable experience that is not offered by any other Tribe.

"It just does so much for Indian country to get young managers out in the field whether they go back to the Tribes, or they go to the Federal Government. The experience you gain out there is beyond comparison," he said. "Not many people within this country get this opportunity. To take advantage of it is one thing, but to have the Grand Ronde Tribe present that opportunity — they deserve so much thanks and appreciation because it's very important." ■