

RESPECTING CEREMONY

We the people of South-eastern Cherokee Council exist to promote the old and honorable ways of the Cherokee. We respect all the old cultures of the Native Peoples. When we come together to do CEREMONY, we are continuing an ancient tradition to the best of our ability. We do ceremony to respect and give thanks-giving to Creator.

In our modern age we sometimes fall short of what we should do to honor our ancestors and the old ways! We go to a special place to do ceremony and we try to prepare for this with certain ceremonial procedures. Then, all too often, we still enter the sacred ceremonial place with a lack of respect.

If there is a ceremonial fire, we soon forget that it is a special fire. CREATOR dwells within the fire after the fire keeper begins the fire during the hours of ceremony.

There have been times when our people have entered the ceremonial process without the proper frame of mind.

When you enter the ceremonial area, perhaps after having gone to water and after participating in the smudging ritual, you should be fully ready to come into the presence of your Creator. There should be no small talk, no idyll jesting, no frivolity. This is serious business. The Fire Keeper, and the Ceremonial Leader have made efforts to make a ceremony for the people to benefit them spiritually and enable them to continue walking the Red Road in balance and in beauty.

Let us all remember. CEREMONY IS SACRED. Do not approach the ceremonial area with a flippant attitude. If you do, you may later pay the consequences. Come to ceremony with reverence and humility. Leave the joking and common conversation to another place and time.

Honor the Sacred Fire. Respect the Ceremonial Leaders. Do not make common place that which is SACRED.

We, of this tribe should perform the sacred ceremonies, second to none. We should offer no opportunity for enemies to say: "These wanna-be's never do ceremony the right way".

Tribal Golf Cart Rejuvenated



Chief Panther Demonstrates Refurbished Golf Cart Used On Tribal Grounds

Dewey, the son of Chief Panther, did repairs and renovations to the "golf cart" used on tribal grounds to transport elders and various cargos from place to place. A new storage rack was included behind the seat.



Myrtle Wood Band Of Oregon Report:

By Dorothy Laughing Red Flower Olson



The Myrtle Wood Band of Coos Bay / North Bend, Oregon, would like to introduce to you our officers. First there is our chief, Joan Thunder Woman Peterson. Second, we have our Vice Chief, Alice Eagle Spirit Vanous. Then we have our Secretary/Treasurer,

Dorothy Red Flower Olsen. The last officer is our veteran, Gerald Tall Bear Brown.

This past year has been a rather busy one for our band. All gifts and donations are made on behalf of the entire band. We started last Labor Day by honoring a Pearl Harbor Survivor, Lt. Col. Boyd Williamson. We presented a crocheted blanket to him and his wife and the veteran of our band presented a handmade knitted stocking cap to him. The Myrtle Wood Band also honored him with gifts of honor, respect and dignity.

We then presented a special crocheted blanket to the local V.A. clinic. It was presented on the day of the V.A. clinic's grand opening. Our veteran also delivered 30 knitted stocking caps to the V.A. hospital in Roseburg, OR. During Thanksgiving, we chose a needy family to give gifts of food, clothing, blankets and toys. At Christmas time we gave baby blankets to the local hospital. We also presented dolls to the Charleston fire dept. for them to give to needy kids. We then chose another needy family to give a food box to. Then around the New Year we presented lap afghans to Bay Crest for the senior citizens. During the Spring we shipped toys, blankets, food and clothing to *Walk In Balance Healing Center* in time for their Spring Solstice celebration. Our band is gathering together all the strengths and talents to start a whole new year.

The Myrtle Wood Band would like to ask for prayers for the following people: First, Janetta Litte Bird Zink. She is still recovering from a case of shingles. Second, we have Dorothy Song Of The River Davis. She is still recovering from her stroke and she has nodes on her lungs. Then, there is Cheryl Little Black Raven Miles who has lung cancer. There is Nancy Whispering Wind Williams who has had had two strokes. We also would like prayers for our band chief who had a bad fall on Dec. 21 of last year, and that she will be able to walk again. That is the only thing that is holding her back.

We lost a member on Dec. 8th. He was one of the elders of the band. He passed away peacefully in his sleep after dinner. He was a veteran from the Navy. He was married to Patricia Sunflower Slate for 57 years and 3 days. He was one of the first men to work on the Alaskan pipe line and his wife cooked the meals for his crew. Before he died, the band had given blankets to both him and his wife. He had a heart of gold and as big as the ocean for other people.

Editor's note: Due to declining health of Joan Thunderwoman, Alice Eagle spirit is now chief.