

# Spirit Days: A a rededication of Native culture

Spirit Days — a rededication and a celebration of Alaska Native and American Indian culture — will be held Friday through Sunday in Anchorage.

Opening ceremonies begin Friday at noon on the Park Strip. Dance groups participating will include:

- The Haida Dancers from

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# • Spirit Days: A celebration of Native culture

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Hydaburg.

•Crossing Paths, an intertribal group from Fairbanks.

•The Northern Lights Intertribal Pow-wow Club.

•Greatland Traditional Dancers.

•Tlingit & Haida Dancers.

A special guest, Jim Pepper, a full-blooded Kaw and Creek Indian and jazz saxophonist will be performing throughout Spirit Days. His unique sound comes from his combination of jazz and traditional music of the Kaw, Creek and other American Indians.

Pepper is famous for his classic "Witchi Tia To," a song based on a Comanche peyote ceremonial chant which he had heard his grandfather sing and which became a Top 40 hit in the United States.

The success of "Witchi Tia To" and the rest of Pepper's music lies in its mix of the traditional and the contemporary. As a composer, saxophonist and vocalist, Pepper takes the

music of the Native American and gives it an original, contemporary expression, as on his new recording, "Comin' and Goin,'" an album of his music.

Pepper toured West Africa and Europe with Don Cherry in 1981, and he has been touring and recording in recent years with other important contemporary musicians, including Paul Motian, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra and Bob Moses.

Other entertainment will include storytellers and demonstrations of the Native Youth Olympic Games.

Native art and craft booths will be set up, and a variety of food stands will have their specialties for sale, including some Native foods such as fry bread and Navajo tacos.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Spirit Days celebration will be held at the Alaska Pacific University from noon until 6 p.m. each day.

Spirit Days representatives are inviting everyone to join in on the celebration. All events are free.



..Young Wainwright Dancers participated last year. photo by Bernice Morrison

June 19

Park Strip

12 noon — 6 p.m.

Photographer: Bill Bouquet

M.C. Jennifer Bouquet, Sam Lamabull

12 noon

Invocation:

Introductions:

Guest Speaker:

12:45

1:15

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:15

3:45

4:15

5:00

6:00

Grand Entry

Reverend Walter Moffett

Pat Kay, Spirit Days President

Tony Knowles, Mayor, Anchorage

Participant Dress Review

Jim Pepper, Indian Jazz Saxophonist

Greatland Dancers

Haida Dancers-Hydaburg

Blanket Toss

Hawaiian Dancers

Tlingit & Haida Dancers

Native Youth Olympics

Intertribal Northern Lights-Crossing Path Dancers

Close

June 20 — Elder Recognition Day

Atwood Center — Alaska Pacific University

12 noon — 6 p.m.

M.C. Mike Boling, Sam Lamabull

12 noon

Invocation:

Introductions:

Guest Speaker:

12:45 — 5:45

6:00

Grand Entry

Reverend Walter Moffett

Pat Kay, Spirit Days President

Governor's Office; Elders

Same as other days

Potlatch — Please bring a dish to share, Native dishes particularly desired

June 21 — Youth Recognition Day

Atwood Center — Alaska Pacific University

12 noon — 6 p.m.

M.C. Frank Berry, Sam Lamabull

Invocation:

Introduction:

Guest Speaker:

Youth Speaker:

12:45 — 5:45

6:45

Reverend Walter Moffett

Pat Kay, Spirit Days President

John Schaeffer, Adjutant General, Army National Guard

Valerie Davidson, Miss WEIO/NCAI

Same as other days

Closing Ceremonies

Editor's Note: This is a tentative schedule, subject to change. Those who want details may contact Glo Shetzle, 274-4422, or Lynn O'Connor, 243-8212.