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Spilyay Tymoo

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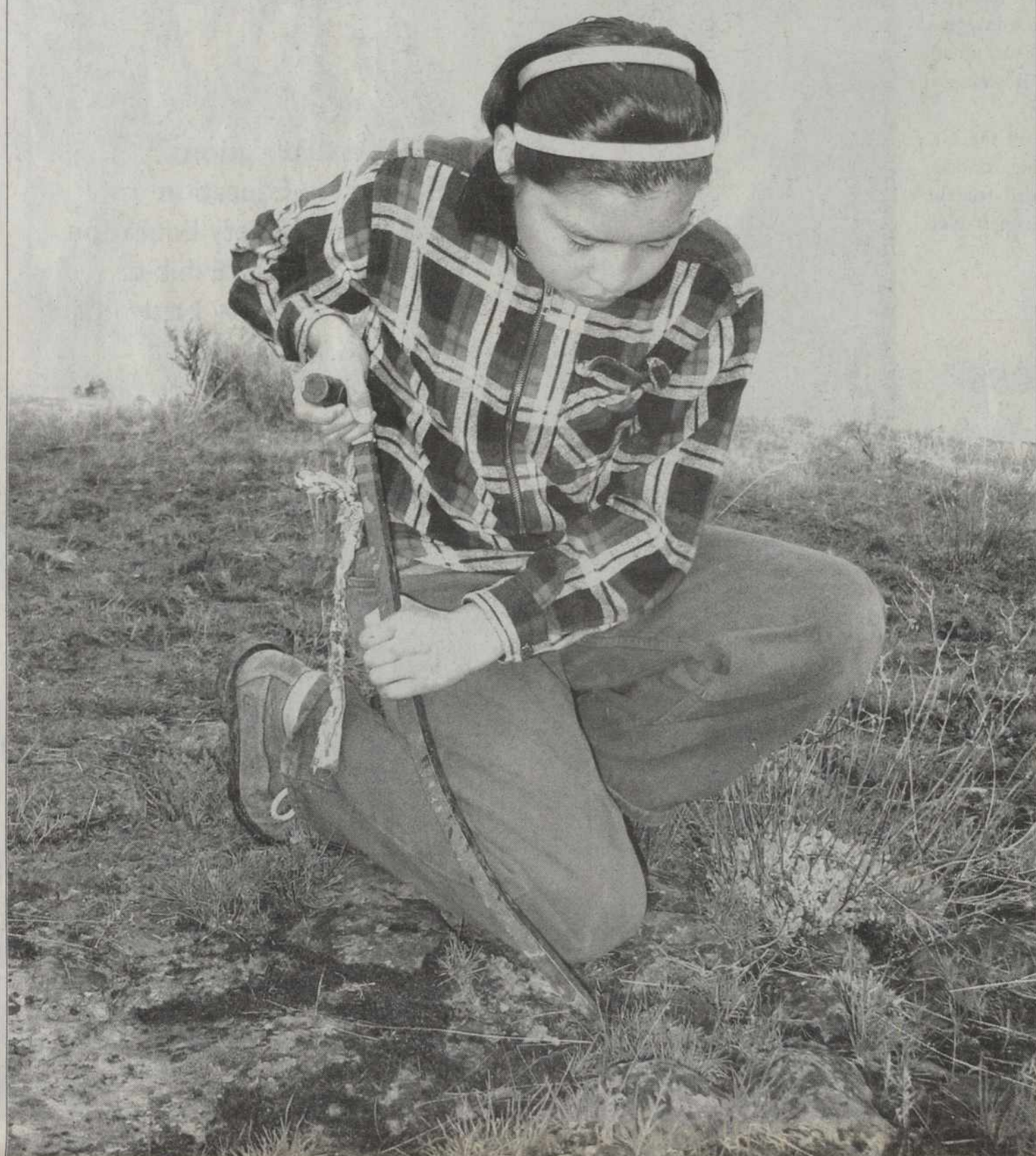
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Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Corey Poafpybitty uses her kupn to dig roots. She and seven other young people went on the root-gathering field trip last week with the OSU Extension 4-H program. Chaperons for the event were Minnie Tulalakus, Arlene Boileau, with help from Char Herkshan and Nadene Moody. Parents who attended were Joanie Wallulatum and her husband, and Corbet Tom.

History exhibit arriving soon at museum

The Corps of Discovery II history exhibition will be at the Museum at Warm Springs starting Saturday, April 22, through Wednesday, April 26.

The exhibition features history of the region from the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition, which happened 200 years ago.

The central feature of Corps of Discovery II is the "Tent of Many Voices."

This 150-seat auditorium is a venue for cultural arts demonstrations, folklore, music, living history presentations,

readings from the expedition journals and more.

Programs reflect a spectrum of nature, culture and history topics. The Indian tribes that the Lewis and Clark encountered are featured.

In addition to the walk-through exhibit, Corps of Discovery II has a 25-foot keelboat replica, a 16-foot diameter Plains Indian lodge and an explorer camp complete with a 25-foot dugout canoe.

Local residents will give presentations during the five days that Corps II

is in Warm Springs. Invited to speak from the local community are the following people: Pat Courtney Gold, Louie Pitt, Terry Courtney Jr., the Warm Springs 4-H Dancers, George Aguilar, Liz Woody, Arlita Rhoan, Suzie Slockish, Adeline Miller, Roberta Kirk, Fred Wallulatum, Wilson Wewa, Chief Delvis Heath, and Viola Kalama.

The exhibition will be in the parking lot of the Museum at Warm Springs. After April 26 the exhibition will travel to Umatilla.

Recording artist performs at youth conference

Spring Break is usually a time for kids to enjoy their week-long vacation from school, either by getting out of town or taking a warm spot on the couch.

But for several youth from Warm Springs, the week was the perfect opportunity to spend with friends and talk about the issues that affect them.

"A New Beginning," a youth conference featuring speakers, entertainment, and activities was March 29-30. The conference included workshops led by several youth-oriented service workers from Warm Springs. There were also a number of college representatives from the Northwest, available to provide information for those interested in going to college.

Native American recording artist Jana, of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, performed a brief set the first day of the conference.

She talked about how she had been the only Native American student at her school, and had felt "left out."

"But I believed in myself," she said. "If I could advise you on one thing, it would be to believe in yourself."

Recording for the Radikal record



Brian Mortensen/Spilyay

Jana performs at the Warm Springs Community Center.

label, Jana scored a dance music hit on the Billboard charts with her song "More Than Life" in 2001, making her the first female Native American artist to score a Billboard chart hit.

She said her record label wanted her to be the next Jennifer Lopez. "There was only one problem," she said. "I'm not Hispanic."

She told the group that "everyone has a special talent," and asked members of the audience what theirs are. There were answers including "basketball," "guitar," and "grass dancing."

She emphasized the importance of education, and said she had set aside money for "AAA," which stands for athletics, artistic ability, and academics for Native American students who would like to go to college.

She sang three songs, including two popular hits, "I Will Always Love You," "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman."

Thursday's portion of the conference included talks from Jillene Joseph, the executive director of the Native Wellness Institute, a member of the Gros Ventre Tribe of Fort Belknap, Mont.

A group of dancers from the Chemawa Indian School from Salem also performed during the first day of the conference.

By Brian Mortensen

Gaming Update Casino discussion at state, federal levels

The U.S. Senate and the House are considering bills that would amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988.

The Senate bill is sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif.

Both the McCain and Pombo bills propose eliminating of the "two-part determination test" of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

The two-part test allows the Secretary of the Interior to approve trust status to off-reservation land acquired by Indian tribes in recent years for gaming purposes. The test determines whether granting trust status would benefit the tribe without detriment to the surrounding community.

In pursuing the Cascade Locks casino plan, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have been following the two-part test. The McCain bill includes language, or a "grandfather clause," that would allow the Cascade Locks proposal to go forward, as the tribes have already expended much time, effort and money on the project.

At a recent hearing on the Pombo bill, Rep. Pombo and several other House committee members also appeared to be sympathetic to the tribes' situation, said Howard Arnett, tribal attorney. From statements made at the hearing, it would be reasonable to assume that the Pombo bill would be amended to include a grandfather clause like that of the McCain Bill, said Arnett.

Political debate

The Cascade Locks casino proposal was the topic of discussion during a recent debate among candidates for the

Democratic nomination for governor of Oregon.

Gov. Kulongoski, considered the favorite to win the nomination, has supported the Warm Springs tribes' economic development plans, including the Cascade Locks casino.

During the recent debate, a challenger to the nomination, former state treasurer Jim Hill, criticized Kulongoski for his support of the Cascade Locks proposal. Kulongoski defended his decision, reminding his opponent that the tribes had been prepared to build on tribal land in the scenic tourist town of Hood River, and would have been within their rights to do so.

TV ad campaign

Meanwhile, the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde - owner of Oregon's largest casino, Spirit Mountain - has launched TV ads blasting Gov. Kulongoski for endorsing a competing casino, the Bridge of the Gods at Cascade Locks.

The ads mark the most concerted effort ever made by one of Oregon's tribes to influence the outcome of a statewide political race.

Warm Springs gaming enterprise representatives say the latest Grand Ronde ads are significant because they take aim at the incumbent governor for going against the wishes of the Grande Ronde tribe in approving the competing Cascade Locks casino.

"This is the politics of punishment," said Len Bergstein, of the tribes' gaming enterprise. "Never before have they set out with the sole purpose in mind to punish a policymaker who had the audacity to oppose them."

(The Associated Press contributed to this article.)

IHS says meth use is at crisis point on reservations

(AP) - Methamphetamine use in Indian Country has reached crisis levels, an Indian Health Service official told a congressional panel last week.

An administration survey found that 1.7 percent of the American Indian population was using meth in 2004, said Robert McSwain, deputy director of the agency. Meth use has steadily grown since 2000, he said.

"It is a crisis for individuals, families, communities, agencies, and governments across the country," McSwain told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Kathleen Kitcheyan, chairwoman of Arizona's San Carlos Apache tribe, broke into tears as she described her tribe's high suicide rate and babies born addicted to drugs - much of that due to high meth use on the reservation.

About half of babies born on her reservation test positive for alcohol or drugs, she said, and about a quarter of patients tested in the tribal hospital's emergency room have meth in their systems.

"For too long, this problem has been neglected," she said. "We have the great spirit of our ancestors in us, but I am afraid the spirit of our ancestors will die."

Tribal and government officials at the hearing said the reasons for escalating meth problems on reservations are many - long distances to treatment centers, poverty, boredom and high rates of alcoholism. They also said it is hard for law enforcement to penetrate reservations because many people know each other and are often suspicious of undercover agents.

Witnesses argued that agencies need to be better coordinated to deal with the problems, Congress needs to authorize more substance abuse dollars for Indian Country and reservations need to step up efforts to educate tribal members about the meth problem.

"My great fear is that we don't have nearly enough resources dedicated to this," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., the top Democrat on the committee.

Dorgan said treatment should be prioritized along with enforcement.

Karrie Azure, a coordinator for a North Dakota Indian drug and alcohol initiative, said at the hearing that only about 3 percent of addicts in her state recover from the drug because treatment does not last long enough.

Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., said recovery is difficult because treatment centers are scarce.

"We've seen greater attention paid to meth, but the resources available to Indian Country have been limited, and the nationwide approach has been less than cohesive," Burns said. "This fractured approach and lack of resources has a direct effect on the rapid spread of meth throughout our Indian reservations."

Burns and Dorgan are the chairman and top Democrat, respectively, on the Senate Appropriations interior subcommittee, which oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Both said Wednesday that they have introduced legislation to help bring more dollars to reservations for meth prevention.