

PARTING SHOTFROM CRINDALYN LYSTER

A weekly snapshot from The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer photographers



The Astoria Bridge at dusk is the centerpiece in the beauty at the mouth of the Columbia River.

ODDITY

Welcome to the World Nomad Games

Goat polo, stick wrestling, bone throwing at the nomad Olympics

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Olympic Games, stand aside: the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan is hosting the World Nomad Games, a competition where polo players ditch their mallets and try to catch a dead goat instead. The Games, which opened last weekend on a picturesque mountain plain in eastern Kyrgyzstan, bring together athletes from 40 countries including Russia and the United States where nomadic traditions are strong.

The World Nomad Games features such unorthodox sports disciplines as eagle-hunting and bone-throwing. Arguably the highlight of the games is the horse-riding competition, called Kok-boru, which dates back to when men used to hunt wolves that preyed on their livestock. Fierce competition is also expected in “stick wrestling,” an event in which two competitors try to gain control of a small stick.

Among the spectators has been American action-movie actor Steven Seagal, who claims part-Mongol ancestry. “I was lucky to visit friends, who gave me, as a special guest, the head of a ram to try, and then I was able to try horse that was cooked for me. It’s fantastic,” Seagal was quoted as saying by the state news agency Kabar. “This is what I eat and what I like.”

Barbara Ornelas, of the Native American Navajo tribe, said she sees a connection between nomadic peoples.

“There is only one difference between the people of Kyrgyzstan and my people — it is the language,” she said, according to Kabar.



AP Photos/Vladimir Voronin

Participants perform during the second World Nomad Games at Issyk Kul lake in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.



Slovakian, right, and Mongolian, left, and participants from other countries attend the second World Nomad Games at Issyk Kul lake in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.



U.S., front, and Kazakh participants take part in the horse-riding competition, called Kok-boru, which dates back to when men used to hunt wolves that preyed on their livestock.



A Kyrgyz boy holds a golden eagle.

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From left: Mateusz Perkowski, Paris Achen