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SPOUT SPRINGS SKI AREA

Umatilla National Forest seeks operator, manager

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

TOLLGATE — For the last six winters, the slopes at Spout Springs have been empty — but that could change in the near future.

The Umatilla National Forest is seeking proposals from interested entities to operate and manage the Spout Springs Ski Area, near Tollgate.

“Spout Springs has been a cornerstone of the local ski scene on the Umatilla National Forest since the 1950s. This is a special place and the Forest Service wants to see the site operating and once again providing recreation opportunities for our communities,” said Darcy Weseman, public affairs officer for the Umatilla National Forest.

The site, which had its first public ski season in 1956, is situated in the Blue Mountains of Northeastern Oregon within the Umatilla National Forest at milepost 22 along Oregon Highway 204.

An Olympic history

Created by the Blue Mountain Ski Club, Spout Springs served as the Nordic training center for the United States Olympic team and the Norwegian jump team in preparation for the 1955 and 1964 Winter Olympics. The U.S. Olympic Committee recognized Spout Springs’ connection to the Winter Olympic Games and granted the ski area permission to fly the Olympic flag.

The ski area covers 1,413 acres and has a vertical drop of 530 feet, according to the Forest Service. Spout Springs is at an elevation of 4,920 feet and on average receives 130 inches of snow per year. The recreation area includes two large chalet-style buildings, which have been used as the main lodge and rental shop.

Skiers and snowboarders are taken up the mountain via two double chairlifts, where they have access to 13 downhill runs. Previous owners of Spout Springs said the ski area is an ideal place for alpine skiers of all skill levels to hone their skills, in part due to the varied terrain.

Some of the downhill runs can be illuminated for night skiing, and there are also more than 20 miles of nordic ski trails with varied levels of difficulties.

Change in ownership

The ski area has been closed since 2016, Weseman said. That left the previous owners in a “state of noncompliance” she said. John and Nancy Murray — who had owned and operated Spout Springs since

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PENDLETON RUN



Motorcyclists stride Friday, July 15, 2022, along Roy Raley Park in Pendleton for the Pendleton Run, formerly Pendleton Bike Week. Pendleton Run organizer Stuart Rice estimated the event would draw as many as 5,000 people to Pendleton. Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

REVVING UP IN PENDLETON

Motorcycle event returns with new name, location, vendors and maybe 5,000 attendees

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO and JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After two years away, Pendleton Bike Week festivities are gearing up for their revamped return — complete with a new name, the Pendleton Run.

“New” is a theme for the event. Along with the new name comes a new venue at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds and new management. Promoters Stuart Rice, Hermiston businessman,

and Bob Richards, of 4ILive! from northern California, ran flat track racing in Pendleton for five years.

After its founding in 2015, Bike Week operated in and around the Pendleton Convention Center. But thanks to Rice, the event is at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds for the first time.

“It’s only natural to have (Pendleton Run) in such a beautiful venue,” Rice said. “It makes it memorable.”

They also said they felt Bike Week could be improved.

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Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Motorcyclists line up their rides Friday, July 15, 2022, at Roy Raley Park, Pendleton, for the Pendleton Run.

Voices of resilience

Justice lags for Indigenous survivors of violence

Editor’s Note: Readers should be aware the following story depicts issues of sexual assault and violence

By BRYCE DOLE AND ZACK DEMARS
The Bulletin

MISSION — Desiree Coyote stared at the red and white confidential envelope she’d spent four days fearing to open. Inside was a police report from 30 years ago detailing the Indigenous woman’s account of a sexual and physical assault.

Until May, she had no idea the report existed.

The police record documented what Coyote told tribal police. Coyote’s ex-husband, William Cruz, from whom she had filed for divorce following years of alleged domestic abuse, came to her house on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and kidnapped her. She said Cruz drove her up to the foothills of Oregon’s Blue Mountains, beat her and sexually assaulted her, according to the report.

She’d lost an earring that night, and she told a tribal officer where he could find it up in the tall grass on the hillside, the report says. A few months later, Coyote heard a knock

at the door. The officer returned her earring.

It wasn’t the first time Coyote, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, reported Cruz’s alleged domestic abuse to tribal police, she said. But since Coyote is Indigenous and her ex-husband is not, and the reported assault occurred in 1991 on tribal land, federal law barred the tribe or state from prosecuting him. Tribal police forwarded the case to the FBI, according to the police report.

“Nothing happened,” Coyote said with tears in her eyes.

Cruz never faced charges in the wake of Coyote’s report.

Coyote is not alone. A study released this year estimated Indigenous people in Oregon reported experiencing domestic violence during the previous year at a rate more than three times the state’s average, and nationwide, Native Americans suffer higher rates of violence than other Americans.

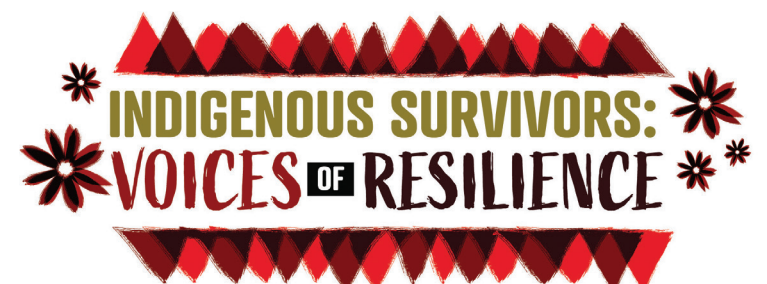
Violence is more often committed against Indigenous people by those who aren’t Indigenous than those who are, according to the most recent U.S. Department of Justice study. Most Native victims of violence, including 97% of women and 90% of men, have experienced violence committed by a non-Native person, while 35% of female victims and 33% of male victims have experienced violence committed by another Native person.

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Kathy Aney/For Underscore, File

Desiree Coyote lets her thoughts roam June 10, 2022, as she stands near the spot on the Umatilla Indian Reservation where she said her ex-husband assaulted her after kidnapping her from her home at the time in Mission, according to a police report.



Indigenous women across the country have endured disproportionately high rates of violence stemming from systemic and cultural obstacles: Mistrust, limited policing, a lack of resources for support services and a dizzying array of jurisdictional issues for crimes committed on tribal land are all factors.

This is the second installment of a two-part investigative project in partnership with Underscore.news, a nonprofit publication focused on Native American issues. The series shows how obstacles to prosecution prompted Indigenous survivors to use their stories of trauma to empower others, inspired initiatives encouraging change and how evolving policies are shaping the legal landscape. Read the full series online at eastoregonian.com.

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